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MK NEWS

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Barry takes on top cop role after 25 years in service

SEE **PAGE 3**

Plenty of ideas for your homes and gardens

SEE **PULLOUT**

Call for probe after death in road blackout

BY ADAM GRINSELL

adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

TURNING off grid-road lights has contributed to the death of a pedestrian, MK NEWS can exclusively reveal.

And it has emerged that no formal risk assessment was carried out by Milton Keynes Council (MKC) before the decision was made to turn off 2,700 grid road lights.

At the inquest into the death of 25-year-old caterer Gary Tomkins, from Melton in Stantonbury, on Friday it was also revealed that a second, similar, fatality at a site where lights were switched off is currently being investigated.

Mr Tomkins' life support was switched off at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford on November 30 last year after he was hit by a van on the V7 Saxon Street, between the South Saxon and Eaglestone roundabouts, in the early hours of November 28.

He was returning from a night out with friends in Fenny Stratford, and was walking in the middle of the road when he was hit.

Coroner Tom Osborne heard from collision investigator Stephen Moffat that because the grid road lights were turned off, Mr Tomkins was wearing a coat of 'low contrast', and driver Graham Smith was using dipped headlights, visibility would have been down to 20 or 30 metres.

In those conditions, at 55 miles per hour, 90 out of 100 drivers would hit a pedestrian.

When asked by Mr Osborne if street lighting would have increased these chances significantly, Mr Moffat said it would.

MKC made the controversial decision to switch off 6,000 grid road lights last February in an effort to help save around £27million in the financial year.

Of these, 2,700 were switched off at the beginning of last summer and remain off. After a safety assessment in August last year the remaining 3,300 are being 'trimmed and dimmed' – timed to dim at certain hours of the night.

MKC assistant director of highways and transport, Alex Constantinides, told the inquest that lights were only switched off where there is 'full separation of pedestrians and vehicles', and that data consulted before the decision was made showed only 1.5 per cent of accidents involving pedestrians occurred on the grid road network. But he also revealed that at the time there was no consultation with stakeholders such as the police because 'it was felt there were no safety implications'.

Mr Osborne will now write to MKC and ask it to reconsider the switch off, under a 'rule 43' report where a coroner is concerned a similar death might occur.

Summing up, he said: "I appreciate the grid system is designed to keep pedestrians and cars apart, in an ideal world.

"But there's nothing to prevent them from walking on the grid roads because there's no provision to stop them from doing so.

"I've heard the decision was made to turn off some of the lights, but it does surprise me that decision was made without a formal risk assessment, and it concerns me that it was made without consultation with stakeholders such as Thames Valley Police.

"A contributing factor here was the lights were switched off, and I will ask the council to review that decision and give consideration to the grid roads, and do a formal consultation with Thames Valley Police."

The council has 56 days to respond to the coroner's report.

THERE'S been eggs-cellent fun on offer as people have been getting into the Easter spirit with a whole host of events.

Turn to page 5 for more.

MK NEWS celebrates 500th issue

EAGLE-EYED readers may have noticed this is a special edition of MK NEWS.

That's because since Milton Keynes on Sunday became MK NEWS on August 14, 2002, 500 editions of the paper have been produced.

That's almost ten years this paper has brought our readers the latest weekly Milton Keynes news first, with exclusive articles and revealing investigations, as well as support for the community with successful campaigns.

Over the years we've exclusively revealed some shocking incidents in the city that have outraged residents, such as the move of Soham murderer Ian Huntley to HMP Woodhill, in October 2002. We've supported MK Dons throughout their existence, with the first match report in our 100th edition in July 2004.

MK NEWS has always been the first on the scene when disaster has struck in the city - we were the first to report the incredible collapse of 15 storeys of scaffolding at the Jury's Inn construction in April 2006, when a worker was killed.

We also campaigned for the release of two men wrongfully convicted for the death of Rachel Manning in 2000, and in October 2010 we were first to reveal 600 jobs were set to be lost at Milton Keynes Council.

It's been a pleasure to bring you 500 editions of the city's favourite paper, and all at MK NEWS would like to thank all our readers for your support.

Here's to 500 more.

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Livestock to return to city's green spaces

SPRING is here and The Parks Trust's cattle and sheep will be moving out of their winter quarters and returning to graze around the city.

You will soon be able to spot livestock grazing on land at Manor Farm, Woughton on the Green, Stones (between Woughton Park and Walton Hall), Wolverton Mill, Haversham, Stonebridge and Passenham.

Over the summer cattle and sheep will graze about 800 of the trust's 5,000 acres of parkland throughout the city, including the Ouse Valley, Ouzel Valley, and Shenley Toot.

Rob Riekie, head of operations at the trust, said: "We are in the process of installing signs to let people know when they are entering a grazing area. While our cattle and sheep are in the fields we are asking all dog owners, walkers and cyclists to continue to enjoy the parks but also to take special care when travelling through grazing areas.

"Our cattle and sheep are a great, and green, way of managing our parkland. They are good for biodiversity and can also reach the parts that more conventional mowing machinery would find difficult."

Dad's home delivery produces baby son

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO

anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

A FATHER is bursting with pride after delivering his baby in the hallway of his family home.

Mark Scott, 36, of Redbridge, Stantonbury, stepped up to the challenge after he was told by Milton Keynes Hospital not to bring his partner, Zuzana Kralikova, 27, into the maternity ward despite the fact that she was experiencing contractions every three to six minutes.

Baby Preston was born at 9.24am last Tuesday after a calm Mr Scott acted as midwife for the morning with the help of South Central Ambulance Service who talked him through the delivery.

But despite a successful delivery he has no plans to swap his job as a search engine optimiser for a career in midwifery.

He said: "Before the delivery I'd have thought that this would be terrifying, but it was amazing and I'm really glad it happened this way."

Mr Scott rang the maternity ward at around 8am but was told that the contractions could last a few days so the best place was for Miss Kralikova was at home.

He said: "I explained that I thought the contractions were quite strong so they told me to bring her in but not to rush and let Zuzana have her breakfast and a bath first.

"As I was packing up the car she told me her water had broken so I rang the ambulance service."

Mr Scott is very proud of his partner who bravely gave birth without any pain relief.

A spokesman for the hospital said: "We would like to extend our congratulations to the couple and say well done to Mr Scott for delivering baby Preston."

The couple's first child, Sophia, two, was born at Luton and Dunstable Hospital and after hearing unfavourable stories about Milton Keynes Hospital they were apprehensive about Preston's birth.

However, after a tour of the maternity ward they had a change of heart.

He said: "We'd heard bad press about the hospital and were concerned but when we saw the ward we really impressed by the facilities and one-to-one care but as it turned out there was no need for concern anyway."

Mark and Suzana Scott with baby Preston

Pick the mascot day charity

ORGANISERS of the popular annual Mascot Olympics are appealing for people to nominate their favourite charity to be recipients of the funds raised.

In the year of the London 2012 Olympics, the Theatre District has promised this year's Mascot Olympics and Family Day will be the biggest and best yet, and the date has now been set for Saturday, June 16.

Last year, MK Play Association was nominated and selected as the charity of the event, which raised almost £1,000 as well as reaching out to hundreds of local people by raising their profile.

Theatre District marketing and communications manager Sara Mills said: "Each year we like to give a new Milton Keynes-based charity the chance to be our charity of the Mascot Olympics.

"Last year was the biggest so far and hundreds of people turned up to take part in many of the free events and activities on the day.

"It's a great family day for everyone and a wonderful opportunity for our charity to engage with the public."

The 2012 Mascot Olympics will see the return of 20 to 30 mascots from all around the country taking part in six Olympic-themed events.

Also confirmed for the day is the funfair and MK Parkour (free runners).

To nominate your charity, e-mail sara.mills@theatre-district.co.uk

For the latest information, join the Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/theatredistrict

MKNEWSBRIEFS

Check pharmacy times

IF YOU need to go to the pharmacy on Sunday, be sure to check its opening times. Cox & Robinson Pharmacy in Market Place, Olney, will be open from 10am-2pm, Jardines Pharmacy in Highland Drive, Broughton is open from 10am-1pm, and Cox & Robinson Pharmacy in Farthing Grove, Netherfield is open from 1-4pm.

Charge in weapon case

POLICE have charged a man with carrying an offensive weapon after an alleged incident in Beaufort Road, Willen, last Tuesday. Mawuko Selormey, 31, of Landsborough Gate, Willen, has been bailed to appear at Milton Keynes Magistrates' Court next Wednesday.

Teens targeted in Blackberry thefts

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

THE number of personal robberies in the city has alarmingly jumped by a massive 56 per cent in just a fortnight - and teenagers with Blackberrys have been the main targets.

Police say the rise happened over the past two weeks when compared to the previous two and are now warning offenders that they could spend years behind bars if caught.

Detective Inspector Mark Glover said that the majority of the cases had involved Blackberry phones, which are being stolen because of the free BBM messaging service.

He said: "Some may consider this as a case of severe bullying as it's not massive levels of violence being used against the victims, but the point we want to get across is that they will be dealt with as robberies.

"You're looking at three to five years imprisonment and that could be after a first conviction."

A crime analyst has looked into the situation but Mr Glover said that there is 'no indication' as to why the rise has happened.

There were 13 more offences than normal during the two weeks out of more than 40 in total.

Most of the victims are aged between 16 and 19 so police want parents to hear their message, especially as schools and colleges are now on holiday for Easter.

The offenders are of varying ages and ethnic backgrounds and most robberies have taken place between 4pm and 8pm, with Saturday a peak day.

Downs Barn, Fishermead, Oldbrook, Walnut Tree, Kents Hill and the Leon Recreation Ground in Bletchley are the most frequently hit areas.

Extra resources were pumped into an U16 night at Groove in the Theatre District on Monday, such is the concern about the issue.

"Young people are going to be walking around in the nice weather with their phones out. They are the people who are prone to it," Mr Glover said.

"Obviously you have to use your phone but people need to have common sense."

To make matters worse, some people have been reporting false robberies to already strained police in order to make insurance claims for lost phones.

Anyone caught risks being charged with wasting police time.

Former beat bobby now top cop

POLICE officers in Milton Keynes are under the leadership of a new Local Policing Commander.

Detective Superintendent Barry Halliday, *pictured*, took over as top city cop from Supt Nikki Ross on Monday, almost exactly 25 years after his first day as an officer.

Det Supt Halliday joined Thames Valley Police on April 13, 1987, as a beat bobby on the Lakes Estate in Bletchley. He spent five years in that role before specialising in detecting crime in the city.

He said: "More than anything, my first five years as a bobby in Milton Keynes shaped me and made me realise very early on what really counts.

"It was the most important part of my career because I had the opportunity to talk to the people that matter, our communities, and for me getting that right and looking after their needs and worries was my passion, and nothing has changed since.

"Policing in Milton Keynes has been left to me in a great position. Part of that is about how well it has been lead over the past years and the strong relationship that exists with partners.

"I was pleased to discover some old friends both within the station and within our partner agencies at an Award Ceremony last week, so I know well the commitment and drive to ensure our city remains safe is as strong as ever. I am thrilled to be working alongside true caring professionals.

"The other part is down to the fantastic officers and police staff we have working in the city.

"Wherever I go I find teams of hard-working, dedicated people working hard to keep the city safe and catch those who commit crime, and I am proud to be overseeing their work."

Det Supt Halliday has also worked as a Detective Sergeant, DI and a DCI in the city, successfully formulating and leading operations such as Operation Drawbridge, an initiative to combat burglary and those involved in it in 1999, and the anti-drugs Operation Dawning in 1998.

MKNEWSBRIEFS

Motorcyclist killed after collision

A 60-YEAR-OLD man died after his motorbike was involved in a collision with a black BMW M3. The crash happened at around 8.05pm on Friday on the V3 Fulmer Street, at the junction with Hawkshead Drive.

Anyone with information should call 101, quoting URN 1523 of March 30. An inquest is expected to open tomorrow.

Casino decision postponed

THE venue for the city's large casino which was set to be decided at a licensing sub committee last Thursday has been adjourned until further notice.

OAP burgled while she sleeps

AN 86-YEAR-OLD's home was burgled while she was in bed upstairs.

The incident happened in Pinewood Drive, Bletchley on Friday. The woman heard a banging sound at 9.45pm. Anyone with any information should call 101.

Stables' £140k is just ACE

POPULAR music venue The Stables is celebrating after being awarded a grant award of £140,000 from Arts Council England.

The award is to carry out detailed work on plans to further develop and improve its facilities in Wavendon.

The money will enable the venue, which presents more than 350 gigs and 250 education projects each year as well as producing the Milton Keynes International Festival, to undertake detailed architectural plans and studies in a bid to complete the long-awaited courtyard development.

It also hopes to improve its operational effectiveness with enhanced backstage facilities.

It is one of just four awards made across the south east of England, and the venue will have 18 months to complete the planning process.

Chief executive of The Stables, Monica Ferguson, said: "We are really pleased that Arts Council England has recognised the significant achievements of The Stables and its unique place in the UK's music scene.

"This award will help us to make sure our development plans are sustainable and appropriate for the venue and for Milton Keynes."

Founded by Sir John Dankworth and Dame Cleo Laine, the venue opened in 1970 and was one of the first to be awarded funds from the National Lottery to develop the new theatre, which opened in 2000.

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We also deliver an additional 8,000 copies each week into public buildings, offices, industrial areas, bars, restaurants and shops for people to read that may not live locally and receive a copy at home.

According to the latest independent, audited readership figures, MK NEWS has a weekly readership in excess of 130,000 adults and this figure is growing as we add on more copies to our distribution across MK. We aim to deliver the best possible service to our readers but if you have any questions or concerns about distribution please feel free to contact our team on the number listed above. Our deliverers earn top rates of pay. If you'd like to join our team please contact the distribution department on the number above.

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Ideas on what MK needs to be a city

SIR - Since so much is made of Milton Keynes not being officially classed as a city, here are two suggestions that I make that could well enhance its status.

First, since there seems to have been only limited provision made for places of religious worship when plans for it were drawn up, let something be done, even at this late stage, to remedy this lack.

After all, the Founder of Christianity did declare that 'a man's life does not consist in the abundance of what he has'.

The second suggestion I make centres round this: while there is a magistrates' court, and also a court for hearing civil cases, there seems to be no Crown Court.

Is this why, if someone is arraigned in respect of a criminal offence allegedly done in MK that requires a Crown Court for its hearing, it has to be heard in either Luton, Aylesbury, or else Northampton?

If Woodhill is considered a suitable site for a high-security jail, then why isn't Milton Keynes viewed yet as fit for its own Crown Court?

Barry Gowland
Fishermead

Don't let the legacy now be undone

SIR - So, the route of the Olympic Torch is published and, on its journey through MK, it will pass over Secklow Gate bridge.

A wry observation is that this is the bridge thecentre:mk wish to close, justifying that it's a road of no consequence.

If consent is obtained, we'll have colourful images recorded for posterity, of an Olympic procession on this apparently little-used thoroughfare.

Perhaps this will ultimately be declined.

However, the portents are not good.

Scarcely a week goes by without letters in local newspapers protesting the further unravelling of those elements that make MK such a unique place to live and work.

Scarcely an exhaustive list, but the continued encroachment upon public space, attacks on the grid road system, unloved and unnecessary traffic lights, lofty buildings abutting city streets, poor or absent landscaping . . .

There must surely be more to modern urban design than simply squeezing the maximum number of bricks and concrete onto every square metre.

For years, voices from afar (rarely taking the trouble to witness reality) have disparaged and mocked. Sadly, elements of local officialdom seem set on turning MK into the very place those voices have erroneously assumed it to be.

The visionaries who began building this 'new city' bequeathed us a wonderful legacy. That legacy is already damaged and progressively being undone. The people of MK, and those who come after us, deserve very much better.

J Hands
Broughton

Council housing and tenancy in the spotlight

SIR - Re rack 'em, stack 'em, pack 'em - what is commonly known as the housing policy of Milton Keynes Council.

I remember the uproar against the battery farming of chickens.

But, MKC policy was to do the same for its tenants.

For instance, how many tenants are living in homes that are designated as being two bedrooms?

In MKC civil servant-ese or councillor-ese, a two-bed home consists of a smallish master and a second so-called 'bedroom' with the dimensions of a walk-in closet.

Let's not forget the disabled or wheelchair user.

No thought has been given to the ingress or egress should there be a fire.

With the only cupboard space containing the boiler, usually located at the apex of the house or flat.

Which makes me wonder how the local fire service passed them for occupancy?

And, don't forget the disabled or wheelchair user with a family, forced to use the one and only wetroom in the house instead of providing a second family bathroom.

You might remember years ago when the dependent housing on the local US bases was put up for auction.

People were sleeping in tents for weeks. Why? Because the rooms were built to American standards to last, and with big rooms.

Unlike the homes built by British contractors for the councils.

They are built to last for the guarantee period.

After that the repairs are down to councils and taxpayers.

RE Lee
Conniburrow

We must remember our national day

SIR - I was recently in Bletchley and watched the parades and bands for St Patrick's Day. Which was itself a great day, full of fun and good times.

I also heard the mayor's speech, who stated that Milton Keynes Council had paid for roads to be closed for parades etc.

That's a nice gesture to make with my and all other English people's council tax money, for an Irish celebration?

I assume this has cost thousands of pounds. Especially for the large police presence.

Anyway, it's St George's Day soon, so what has the mayor and his council got planned for our proud day? A day that remembers how proud we should be to be English?

I myself am ex-forces of 17 years, Paratroopers Second Battalion, who day in day out put my life on the line to help make this country what it is today.

I'm now disabled for the cause of the British Empire so you can sleep safely in your beds at night.

And myself, other service men I know locally and a majority of Milton Keynes itself would like to see something in place for St George's Day.

We seem to have every other day celebrated for most other nations, well my friend this is England, we are English, what is happening with our day?

I would love to hear your reply as to what will be happening for our fantastic day in April 2012, as it's not that long away so you need to sort some drastic planning, I presume you have already started anyway.

Take this as a reminder, that we English do actually care about our holiday.

I will be sending copies of this letter to all offices and newspapers, so we get something positive done for us, for a change.

Ian Neale
Sent by e-mail

If it looks like a city and acts like a city. . .

SIR - In light of some ill-informed letters from previous weeks we should get a few facts about MK and the city status straight.

The business about having to have a cathedral or a bishop is rather misleading - Selby in Yorkshire is the seat of a bishop, but no one would call that a city. There are cathedrals for the bishops of Blackburn, Guildford, and Southwark, but these are not cities.

Cambridge on the other hand is a city but has no bishop and the nearest cathedral is at Ely (Ely was only recognised as a city in the 70s).

Other cities like Bath or Hull do not have cathedrals (Bath Abbey is not a cathedral), and surprisingly Westminster doesn't - although it has the Abbey but this is not the seat of a bishop.

The Garden City movement is a method of urban planning that was initiated in 1898 by Sir Ebenezer Howard in the United Kingdom.

Garden cities were intended to be planned, self-contained communities surrounded by 'greenbelts' (parks), containing proportionate areas of residences, industry and agriculture. These cities, such as Welwyn and Letchworth, do not have a royal charter but are still referred to as cities.

Milton Keynes is a descendent of these with similar large areas of parkland and business sectors separate from residences. Richard Crossland, the Home Secretary, gave the go ahead in 1967 for the development of what he described as the 'new city of Milton Keynes'.

MK doesn't have a royal charter but a) the granting of this government decision made by Home Office and rubber stamped by the monarch b) is part of the 'garden city' inheritance/tradition and c) has always and will always be referred to as 'the city' of Milton Keynes because, let's face it, common usage is 99 per cent of the argument even if this irritates the anally retentive.

Kelvin Mansbridge
Shenley Church End

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Hop to it and enjoy Easter events

THESE children were just some of the dozens who took part in The Parks Trust's annual giant Easter Bunny Hunt yesterday.

Taking place in different parks each year, the yearly event is always a huge success, and sells out every Easter.

This year the kids got the chance to practise their bunny hops and join The Parks Trust's park rangers at Hazeley Wood, next to Grange Farm.

They followed trails to find clues left by the Easter Bunny, and the lucky ones even got to meet the sneaky giant-sized white rabbit delivering eggs on his yearly rounds.

They also had the opportunity to get crafty by making bunny ears and crowns for an Easter parade.

With more than 200 organised events each year, The Parks Trust offers a wide variety of activities all year round that make Milton Keynes a vibrant and colourful place to live, work and visit.

But yesterday's hunt isn't the only thing for kids, big or small, to enjoy this Easter holiday.

There are a whole range of events taking place right across Milton Keynes all week, as well as on Good Friday and on Easter Monday.

For a full and comprehensive guide of how you can help to entertain the little ones during the holidays, see the MK LIFE Easter guide on page 49.

Mum makes plea for action after daughter's death

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO

anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

A GRIEVING family want to see action taken after their 'wonderful' daughter was discharged from hospital just seven hours before she died.

Tina Bilen, 52, of Downs Barn, died on November 30, 2011 after suffering a tear in the main artery to her heart.

She was admitted to A&E the night before a tightening in her throat, pains in her arms and legs and a severe headache but she was sent home despite three abnormal ECG tests.

Her mother, Dot Liddard, said: "Other times the hospital have been brilliant but not that night.

"A junior doctor, Dr Tenant, took the decision.

"A senior consultant was not consulted and should have been. I've lost a daughter, two daughters have lost their mother and two beautiful grandchildren have lost their nan."

Tina Bilen with grandaughter Ella

At an inquest last Wednesday Dr Richard Ajuwon, consultant and clinical director of A&E, explained that although a senior member of staff should have been consulted, it is unlikely that if Mrs Bilen had been kept in A&E the outcome would have been different.

However, Mrs Liddard explained that the family feel like they have been left without answers to the questions they wanted answered as the struggle to carry on with life without their daughter.

She said: "Why wasn't the consultant called? I'm not saying she wouldn't have died but she would have had a chance."

A number of changes are being implemented at the hospital following Mrs Bilen's death including an increase of the number of consultants from six to ten.

Mrs Liddard said: "I'm glad things will change but that's no comfort to us. We still can't come to terms with it."

The hospital has explained that because the Mrs Bilen died of natural causes no action will be taken against Dr Tenant

Have your say on the future of city centre

RESIDENTS now have the opportunity to shape the future of the city centre thanks to the launch of the CMK Alliance Plan.

Under the Localism Act, eight 'frontrunner' areas across the country have been chosen to pilot new Business Neighbourhood schemes, where people and businesses join to produce a plan for how they want their area to develop.

The CMK Alliance Plan is one of these eight national frontrunners, and the only one to cover a city centre location.

To get involved, residents who want to help write the plan can visit the alliance's unique 'wiki' website and input their ideas.

The wiki plan is a 'living' document available online 24 hours a day, ready for residents' input between now and the end of May.

It is hoped the plan will therefore be written 'by the people, for the people, in their place' - a concept which has not been implemented anywhere else in the country.

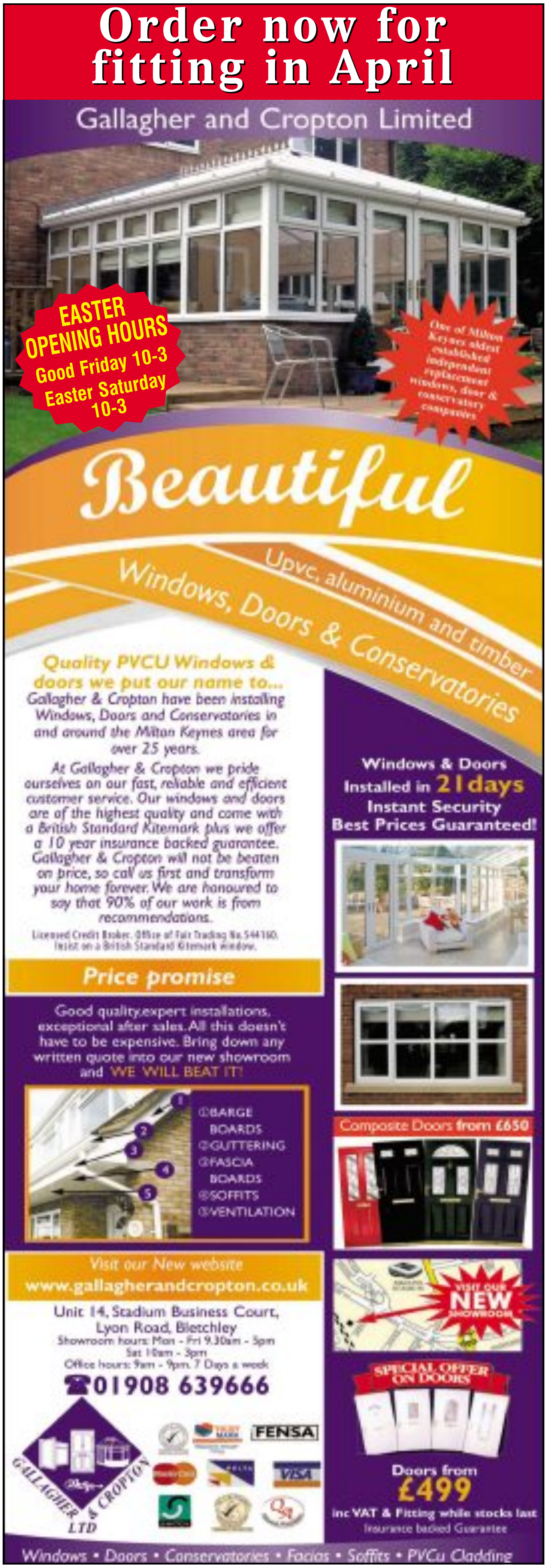
On top of this there are a number of workshops for people to attend and small informal get-togethers.

The aim of the plan is to create a new 'blueprint for prosperity' based on how residents and businesses want the city centre to evolve in the coming years, which will feed into planning policy.

It will be led by a steering group consisting of representatives from CMK Town Council, local business leaders and Milton Keynes Council (MKC) who hope to develop a vibrant and prosperous CMK.

In turn this is intended to promote further economic growth throughout the wider Milton Keynes area.

For details and to have your say on the plan, see www.cmkalliance.co.uk.



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Driver hospitalised after attack by passenger

A CAB driver was assaulted by a male passenger in Bletchley during the early hours of Sunday morning.

At about 3.45am, a cabbie collected two women and the attacker from outside the Xscape building.

He took the two women to separate addresses then asked the man where he wanted to go.

The man kept changing his mind, before deciding he wanted to be dropped at Portrush Close, Bletchley.

As the driver stopped in the road, at about 4.20am, the man started verbally abusing the driver, before grabbing his clothes and punching him. The offender then got out of the taxi, pulled the driver out, and continued to punch him, before running off.

The 34-year-old victim sustained an injury to his eye and pains in his head, and was taken to Milton Keynes Hospital by ambulance for treatment.

He was released the following day. The offender is white, slim, in his 20s, around 5ft 5ins, with greyish coloured hair.

He was wearing a long sleeved black shirt and was clean shaven.

PC Neil Bowker, from Milton Keynes police station, said: "This was a nasty and unprovoked attack on an innocent man as he carried out his job.

"The victim required hospital treatment overnight and lost wages while he did so."

Anyone with any information should call 101.

Investigation: The scene at Fenny Stratford graveyard where the exhumation took place. Michael Walsh is pictured inset

Identity of man in mystery grave is now revealed

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO

anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

THE identity of a man whose body was exhumed from a Fenny Stratford cemetery was revealed at an inquest on Friday.

Michael John Walsh, formerly of Serpentine Court in Bletchley, who would have now been 54, was originally found in the River Great Ouse in December 5, 1986, by two workmen repairing Goosey Bridge near Olney.

Because the remains were only partial, the family was unable to identify the body and an inquest held on May 13, 1987 recorded an open verdict with the cause of death 'unascertainable'.

Mr Walsh's remains were exhumed from an unmarked grave in Fenny Stratford three weeks ago and a Home Office pathologist carried out extensive DNA testing to determine the identity.

Mr Walsh was last seen on Christmas Day in 1985, after he was arrested the day before for breach of the peace and then released from police custody, when he was 28 years old.

He failed to appear at court on January 9, 1986, and was then reported missing on January 21 by his sister.

His family said in a statement: 'Michael was a true gentleman, who has been much missed by his family, partner, son and friends.

'We are pleased that after 26 years of not knowing what happened to Michael we have finally found his body and would now like to take him to Ireland and bury him with his parents.'

His family thanked Thames Valley Police for keeping them informed throughout the inquiry and the coroner for helping get Mr Walsh's body returned to them.

The full circumstances of his death will form part of the formal coroner's inquest on July 10, although it is unlikely a cause of death will be established.

Building gets an urban makeover

YOUTHS with an artistic flair are being asked to whip out their paintbrushes and get involved with an urban art project.

From the May 3-5, a local urban artist and volunteers will be transforming the Jonathans Youth project building in Coffee Hall.

The group will design images based around the theme of the Queen's Jubilee and work to develop a brightly coloured mural on the outside walls of the building.

Youth worker Clare Slattery said: "The project will freshen up the outside of the building, giving it a new lease of life and making it a colourful and inviting place.

"The project will also give the young people involved a chance to improve their art skills with instruction from an accomplished artist."

This will be the first phase of a two-part project to refurbish the outside of the centre.

Phase two will involve a complete overhaul of the shutters at the back of the building. This time volunteers will come up with Olympics themed designs to be painted onto the shutters.

Together with the artist, the group will also be creating some new art work for the inside of the building.

Teens living on Coffee Hall or the surrounding area can get involved with the project by calling 01908 253611 or e-mailing clare.slattery@milton-Keynes.gov.uk

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Cloudy2Clear Windows, the Milton Keynes based window repair company, are revolutionising how homeowners view double glazing in our area. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as customers take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Billy Harley, is convinced that much of his success is down to the fact that he employs tradesmen, not salesmen. 'If you think about it, who wants to deal with the dreaded double glazing salesman? The thought of going through the whole tedious process of haggling with someone who arrives at 7 at night and then camps themselves in your house until midnight is not one most people find attractive. A lot of our customers are elderly and can feel very pressurised by sales tactics. We set out from day one to be very different.'

Billy makes very sure his customers are looked after right from the first time Cloudy2Clear arrive at the house. 'All our staff arrive in uniforms so the customer knows who they are and I insist that they wear plastic overshoes to protect the customers carpets. We then measure the windows that have a problem and price the job up there and then, which usually takes around 15 minutes. If the customer wants the job doing we'll arrange installation but if they want to call us back later that's fine. What I don't want to hear from any of my customers is that they felt pushed into anything. It's just not our style. We're trying to give the glazing industry a reputable face and the evidence of my order book tells me my customers like our approach.'

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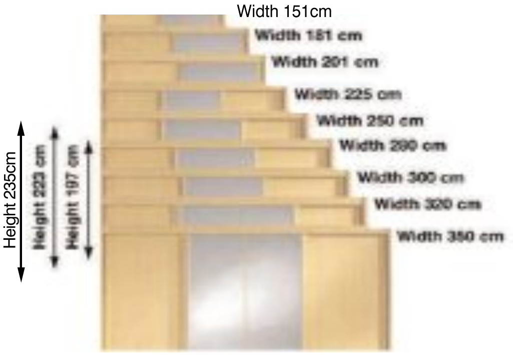
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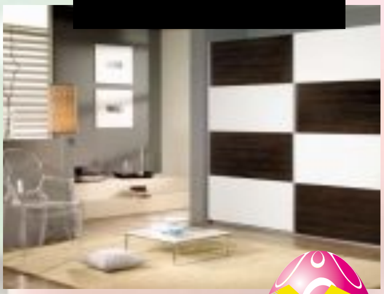

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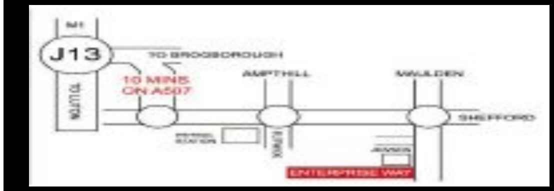
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Man jailed after faking identity

BY ADAM GRINSELL

adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

A CONMAN and bigamist who stole the identity of another man in an attempt to live and work in the UK has been jailed for three years following an investigation by the UK Border Agency.

Abdul Allan, 51, of Spearmint Close, Walnut Tree, is thought to have entered the country as a national of Niger in 1995. He went on to use multiple identities to try to stay in the UK and married three different women using three different aliases.

Allan obtained a British birth certificate and, claiming to have been adopted, used it to apply for a string of identity and immigration documents.

He also made a variety of applications to the Home Office using different names and fraudulently obtained a UK driving licence.

Using his illegally obtained documents he went on to gain work with Milton Keynes Council.

But his cover was blown on September 16, 2010, when he was arrested at his home address by investigators from the UK Border Agency's south east criminal and financial investigation team.

Jailed: Abdul Allan

They then used facial mapping techniques and handwriting experts to confirm Allan's various identities were one and the same.

On Thursday, March 8, a jury at Oxford Crown Court found Allan guilty of three counts of obtaining leave to enter or remain in the UK by deception, two counts of bigamy, plus five other charges including fraud and deception.

Allan was sentenced to three years in prison by a judge at the same court on Friday and will face deportation at the end of his sentence.

Bernadette Ellison, from the UK Border Agency's south east criminal and financial investigation team, said: "Allan built his entire life in the UK on a complicated web of lies and deceit. He has lied so much I doubt he knows what the truth is any more.

"Unpicking this was difficult, but his conviction shows we are committed to tracking down and stopping those who try to undermine the immigration system."

The public can help us by reporting any information about suspected immigration abuse to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 where anonymity can be assured or by visiting http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/contact/report-crime.

YMCA LAUNCHES APPEAL TO FIND MENTORS TO HELP YOUNGSTERS
SEE PAGE 19

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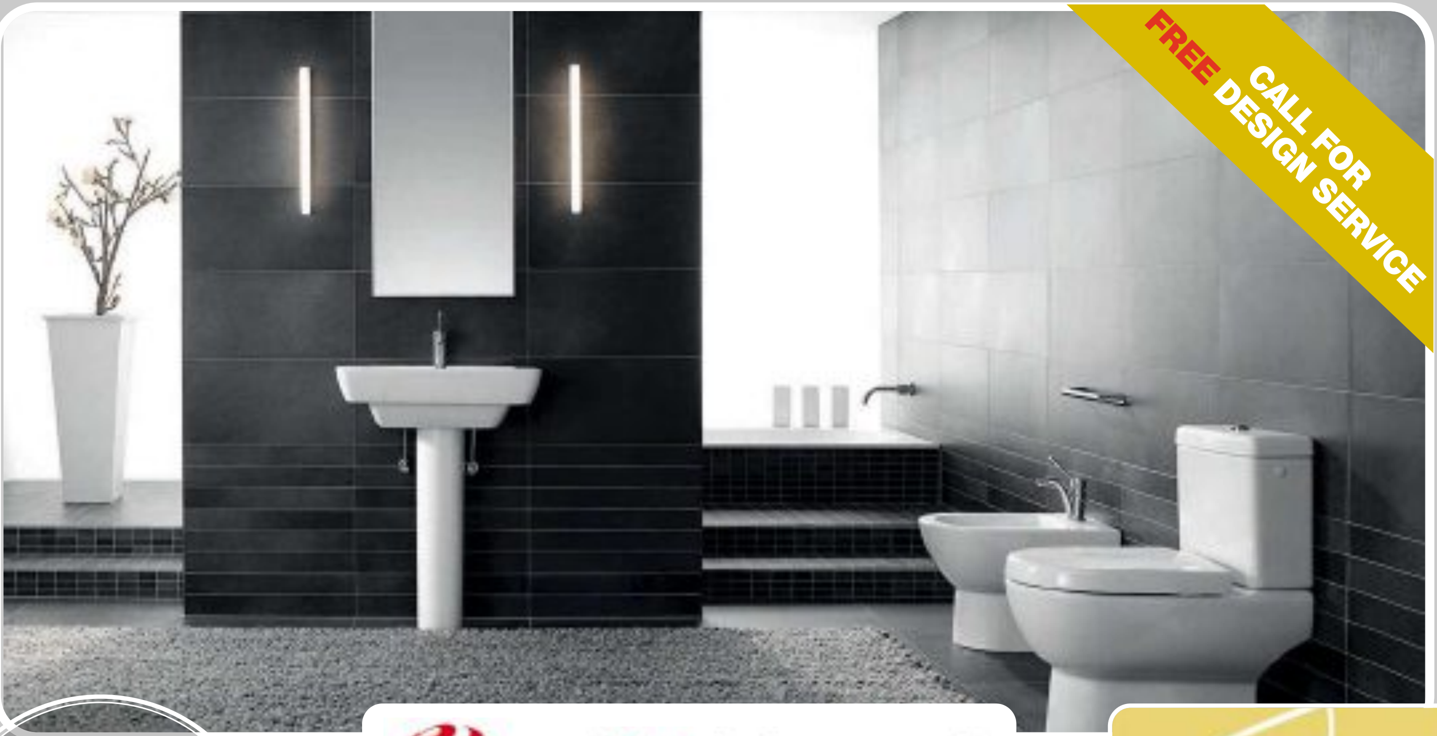
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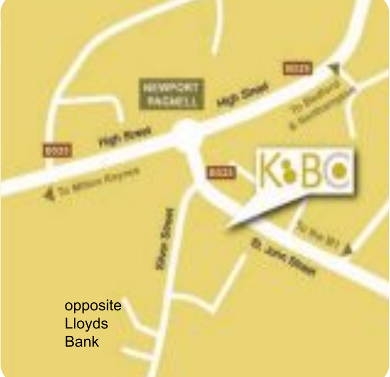
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Four months jail for safety failure

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

Fire: The property in 2010 with Lookman Adeyemi at an earlier hearing, inset

THE landlord of a house in which a mother and her three-year-old daughter were killed in a blaze has been jailed.

In sentencing Lookman Adeyemi, 38, of Buckfast Avenue, Bletchley for four months, The Recorder, Justice Lord Parmoor, said his failure to comply with fire regulations 'wasn't for days, wasn't for weeks, it was for months', and that his tenants were facing risks 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Adeyemi was sentenced on Friday at Amersham Law Courts after pleading guilty to three counts of breaching fire safety regulations. He previously pleaded guilty to three counts of breaching fire safety regulations.

The counts were that he placed people at risk of death or serious injury in case of fire because he failed to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk, failed to ensure that, in the event of danger, it was possible for people to evacuate the premises as quickly and as safely as possible, and that there were insufficient fire detectors and alarms.

In his defence Trevor Siddle said Adeyemi didn't know how there came to be no batteries in the alarms, and that the fire is something that 'rocked him to the core'.

But summing up Judge Lord Parmoor said that there had been persistent failures which warranted an immediate custodial sentence. Adeyemi was also ordered to pay £10,000 in costs.

Bola Ejifunmilayo, 29, and her daughter Fiyin were killed in a fire in September 5, 2010, in the property on Fishermead Boulevard.

Last year Barbara Zhanje was sentenced to 12 years in prison for their manslaughter after she started the fire.

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Keep our green space: Parish Councillor Hilary Dyer and Simon Kirkman on the piece of land they hope will be registered as a village green

Village green plan for much-used land

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO

anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

LAND used by residents as an informal play area for decades needs protecting, according to a parish council.

Loughton Parish Council is applying to Milton Keynes Council to register the common land adjacent to Stratfield Leisure Complex on Gatcombe as a village green.

Project co-ordinator, Peter Ballantyne, of Great Holm, said: "It's important that we protect our open spaces, this is one of the greatly valued characteristics of Milton Keynes. The adjacent Leisure Complex has been sold for housing development and we want it to stop there."

In order for the land to qualify as a village green evidence needs to be provided that the area has been in constant use for at least 20 years as a free and unfettered recreational and leisure facility.

Mr Ballantyne explained: "Children go sledging on the land during the snow and there are often improptu cricket matches and unofficial games of football."

As well as asking residents to confirm in writing that they have observed the land being used as a play area Mr Ballantyne wants residents to get involved with coming up with a name for the area.

Current contenders include 'Lakeside Green', 'Great Holm Village Green' and Jubilee Green'.

Mr Ballantyne said: "It would be great if readers to come forward with ideas. There have been a number of suggestions so far and the frontrunner seen to be Holm Green but the decision hasn't been made yet."

Name proposals for the land and evidence of its use as a play area can be put forward to the parish clerk by e-mailing parish.clerk@loughtonpc.org.uk.

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Estate's homes set for upgrade

BY ADAM GRINSELL

adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

Going green: MKC housing service project manager Stewart Andrew, Lakes resident Susan Osbourne, MKC chief executive David Hill, Lakes resident Dave Osbourne and Barry Clay, contracts manager for Apollo Property Services Group with a sample of insulation roll designed to keep homes warmer and cut down on fuel bills.

HUNDREDS of residents on one estate are benefiting from funding to make their homes cleaner, greener, warmer, dryer and cheaper to heat.

The Lakes Community Energy Saving Project (CESP) is a scheme which will help fund vital 'eco-upgrades' to people's homes – both council houses and privately owned or rented.

Work began last month on major upgrades to 469 council properties, which could lead to them becoming up to 20 per cent more efficient in energy terms.

The scheme is mainly funded by Milton Keynes Council, with power giants npower providing grant funding earned based on the amount of carbon savings realised by installing upgrades.

Some of the work being carried out before November includes installation of new 'warm roofs' to replace the currently un-insulated roof spaces, new double glazing, and insulation of lofts and cavity walls.

Apollo Property Services Group is acting as the main contractor, undertaking the works on behalf of the council.

The company is also supporting the community by providing employment and work experience opportunities, and running community projects for residents involved with the CESP scheme.

The council has also set aside £500,000 from the Government's New Homes Bonus fund to pay for low-cost loans for owner-occupiers under 60 years old within the CESP area, and also to start a similar scheme for landlords who own privately rented properties on the Lakes Estate.

There is already a loan scheme for owners over 60 with competitive interest rates and flexible terms. So far 72 homes have expressed an interest in taking part in this scheme.

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Group vows to help protect NHS values

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS vow to fight changes to the health services in Milton Keynes which will be bought in following the passage of the government's Health and Social Care Act.

MK Against the Cuts organised an emergency meeting which was attended by health service staff, campaign groups and trade unions.

Speakers raised concerns about the impact, cost and complexity of the changes.

The group believes that enforced competition and an increased input from private firms will lead to vulnerable and poor people losing out, undermining the founding values of the NHS.

David Isaacson, chairman of MK Against the Cuts, explained that he organised the meeting because he was approached by people asking what actions the group were going to take after the act was passed.

He said: "Thirty-five people attended the emergency meeting which was encouraging as it took place just two days after the Health and Social Care Act was passed.

"We thought that this might put people who were going to speak out about changes off but it didn't."

The group now plans to take the bull by the horns and is stepping up its campaign and mustering up support against the NHS reforms.

Steven Bell, health worker and union representative, said: "We all need the NHS and it's great that folk in Milton Keynes are prepared to fight for it.

"Members of the public do not rely on the NHS most of the time but know it is there when they need it. The passing of the Health and Social Care Bill now puts a question mark over this assumption."

Last Wednesday the group set up street stalls in Civic Square where members of the public could go to talk with campaigners.

MK Against the Cuts is a branch of the national Coalition of Resistance and meet at 7pm on the first Tuesday of every month at Bletchley Railway Club.

Hannah takes the runner-up spot

YOUNG musician Hannah Slavin, 18, from Newport Pagnell, has had her natural talent as an accomplished classical pianist recognised after finishing runner-up in the regional finals of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition.

Hannah, pictured receiving her certificate from Rotary district governor Trevor Johnson, narrowly missed out winning the regional final held recently in Essex.

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Prince Andrew, The Duke of York with customer services apprentices to De Verve's Harben House, *left*, walking from the Maison House with Iain Standen CEO of Bletchley Park Trust, *centre*, chatting to visitors at Bletchley Park, *right*

Iain Standen outside Hut 3 with Prince Andrew, The Duke of York

Prince sees what area has to offer

BY ADAM GRINSELL
PHOTOS BY ANDY HANDLEY

adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

HRH The Duke of York, Prince Andrew, spent the day in Milton Keynes last Wednesday.

He first visited cherry-picker and access platform company NiftyLift in Stonebridge, before heading to the UK headquarters of Mercedes in Tongwell.

He then went to see cooking and hospitality apprentices at work at the De Vere Academy in Newport Pagnell.

Dan McKay is a level three cookery apprentice who got to meet and speak to the prince.

He said: "He was really talkative and not what I expected.

"He was talking to us and having a laugh and a joke, asking us about how we got into it and watching our demonstrations.

"He asked about our knives and knife safety too, because when he was there one of the lads cut himself."

The Duke then headed to Bletchley Park for a private lunch, in which MK NEWS understands he talked about the value of apprenticeships and education linking up with businesses, and also about the work being done to revamp the venue.

He then unveiled a new plaque honouring Second World War pigeon Royal Blue.

■ **See pages 20-21 for a feature on the role pigeons played in World War II and more on Prince Andrew's visit to Bletchley Park.**

HRH Prince Andrew, The Duke of York, during his visit

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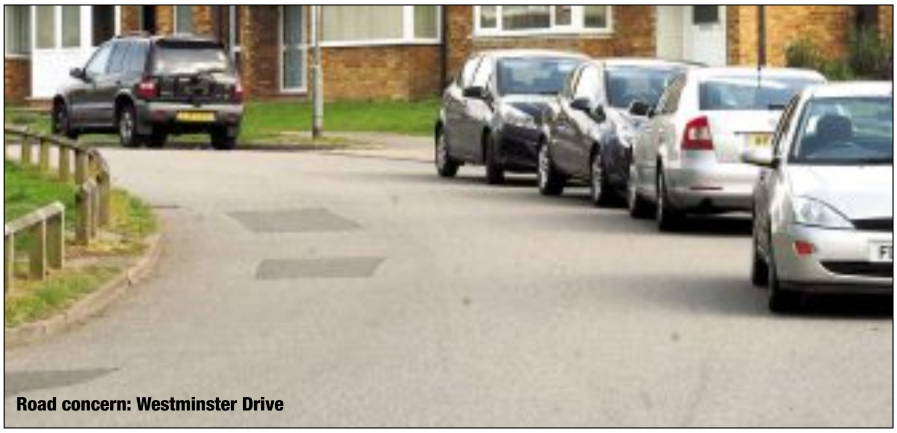

Road concern: Westminster Drive

Call to sort parking in the streets issue

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO

anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

RESIDENTS are calling for the council to tackle the problem of parking along their street.

A lack of car parking spaces is the biggest issue for West Bletchley residents.

An extensive survey along the road and nearby Sutherland Grove revealed that improving provisions is hugely important for car users in the area.

Feedback from the project suggests that Milton Keynes Council (MKC) along with West Bletchley Parish Council should review the number of bays needed to meet local demand.

Resident, Albert Goodluck, said: "A lot of the time people who live on the street struggle to find spaces.

"You never know when children are going to be running about and something needs to be done before congestion causes a serious accident."

One proposed solution is for the parish council to fund new parking bays on a match funded basis with MKC.

Eleanor Shardlow, of Westminster Drive, said: "The grass verges should go and the green where the phone box is should be used for car parking spaces for the people living in the flats."

As well as an online petition, MKC transport boss, John Bint, has been written to asking for action to be taken on this matter.

Follow-up surveys have been sent out to gain more insight into the problem.

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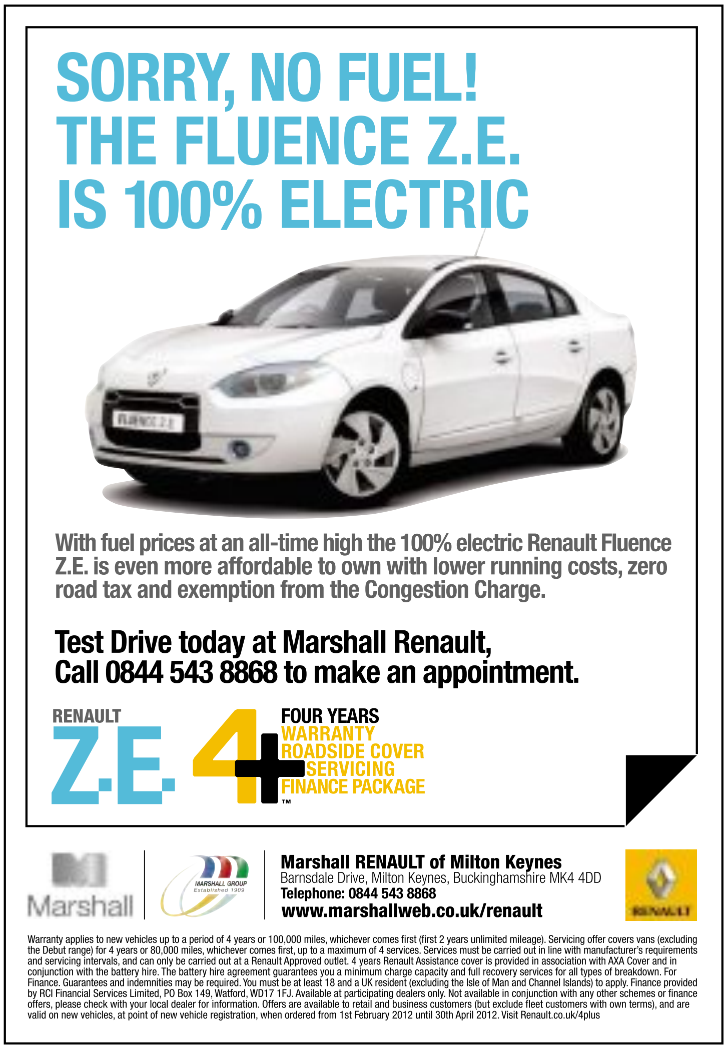

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Mentors needed to help at YMCA

BY ADAM GRINSELL

adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

THE city's YMCA is looking for volunteer mentors to its young long-term residents to try to help them get into work.

It has launched the recruitment campaign as part of a new initiative, and also after a cut in funding last April meant a reduction in staff.

Claire Benjafield, the resident support and involvement officer, is spearheading the search for the mentors.

She said: "The role will involve one-to-one support and guidance to some young residents who are struggling to get access to employment and training.

"It will mean building a positive relationship with a young person, to develop confidence, self esteem, their social network, skills and interests."

The YMCA provides 123 city centre apartments for young people – many of those are long-term residents aged between 18 and 30 who will be the focus of the scheme.

Claire said there are high levels of unemployment at the apartments, and they are hoping to improve this by recruiting a wide variety of mentors, and matching them individually with the people they will be helping.

YMCA
WANTED

Wanted: Claire Benjafield is leading the recruitment drive

The role would only take around two to three hours per week of the mentor's time, and would include ongoing training.

Claire added: "Many of the young people here haven't had a relationship with a non-judgmental person, and are often lacking skills and goals in their life. The job of a mentor is to provide that."

Open evenings for adults interested in getting involved are being held on Tuesday, April 24 at 7.30pm, and Saturday, May 5 at 10.30am at 1 North Sixth Street, CMK.

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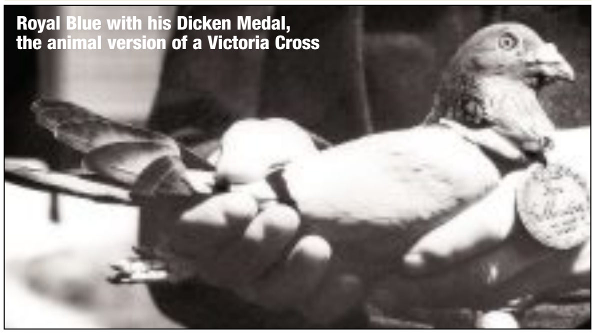
How pigeons aided the

THEY are the unsung heroes of two world wars, saved countless thousands of lives, and were used to misinform the enemy on both sides. Reporter ADAM GRINSELL takes a look at the role of pigeons during wartime.


Royal Blue with his Dicken Medal, the animal version of a Victoria Cross

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The plan worked, all five crewmen were saved, and Royal Blue was awarded the Dicken Medal – the animal version of the Victoria Cross. Only 55 Dickens have been handed out, and 32 of those have been awarded to the brave birds.

During his visit to Bletchley Park last Wednesday Prince Andrew surprised Colin Hill, who looks after the Royal Pigeon Racing Association's (RPRA) exhibit at the park, by pulling a second replica of Royal Blue's Dicken (the original and the first replica were lost by Buckingham Palace) out of his pocket and handed it to him for the display.

Mr Hill said: "I couldn't believe it – we've been trying to get a third one to give to The Queen, but Prince Andrew surprised us all.

"He said 'if there was a third one would you lose it?' And I said 'we wouldn't have it sir, you would'. But then he said 'no no', then pulled it out."

The Duke of York was visiting to unveil a stone plaque dedicated to Royal Blue, made by Neville Walbidge who also carved the largest coat of arms in Britain at Kensington Chelsea Town Hall, and which will eventually be displayed at Bletchley Park as part of a new RPRA display.

Mr Hill is eager for all of the birds used in wartime to be honoured, and hopes the plaque, medal, and a royal visit will aid in their exposure.

He said: "So many people that come to Bletchley Park are all of the idea that the pigeon is the one you see walking about on the streets. But having this exhibition here, so many people want to know the stories.

"For example during the D-Day landings the radios very rarely worked, so it was the pigeons that brought all the messages back.

"Thousands of birds were entered into the National Pigeon Service – two were carried on every bomber – and the Americans also used them."

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fight in World War II…

Royal visit: Prince Andrew pictured at Bletchley Park, *above*, and shaking hands with Frederick Dyke, 88, who trained pigeons, *left*.

One bird, GI Joe, even managed to save 1,000 British troops on his own.

"We were going to a place in Italy, thinking the Germans were still there," explained Mr Hill. "They found out there weren't any Germans left, but the American planes were already taking off to bomb the place with 1,000 troops still there.

"No radios were working, so they let a pigeon go to tell them to stop the bombers going up – the bird did 20 miles in about 19 minutes to save all those lives."

During his visit, Prince Andrew also met 88-year-old Frederick Dyke, who trained pigeons out of Coleshill in the midlands. He estimated that around 17,000 pigeons were dropped by parachute over occupied territory so that as much information about the Germans could be sent back home as possible.

He said: "We wanted to know about airfields, troop concentrations, as much as we could find out. The majority of people don't realise what a big part pigeons played, and I wish more people could know what they did during the war.

"Although we dropped 17,000 birds, only 1,270 returned with messages. The planes dropped them by parachute in cages under the cover of darkness so the pilots didn't know where the birds would land. Many died for the want of food or drink, some were dropped over water, and others were caught and eaten.

"But when you consider what kinds of things they brought back, the returns were pretty good."

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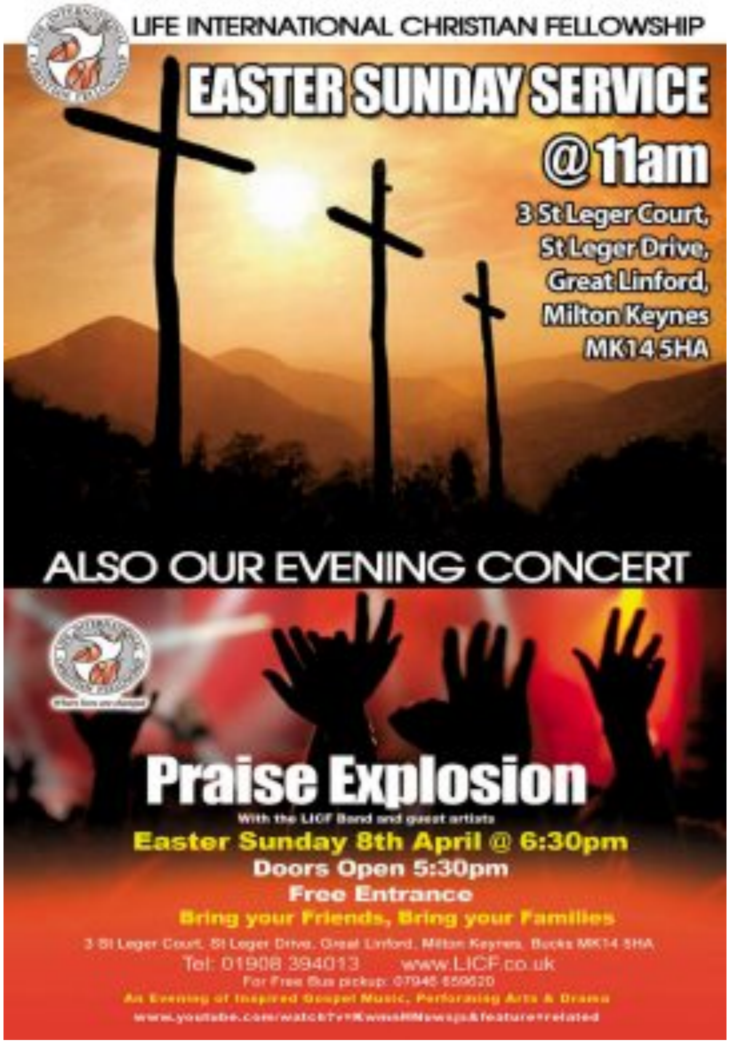

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Energy-saving tips help efficiency drive

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO

anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

THE city is one step closer to going green after residents found out how to become more energy efficient and save money at the same time.

More than 350 people joined the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Alan Richards on Saturday at the Future Wolverton, Future Energy Show which featured an energy efficient open house, demonstrations, exhibitors and suppliers from a variety of industries.

Speakers gave advice on a number of energy efficiency subjects and local people took to the platform to talk about their own experiences of installing low carbon technologies.

Visitors also got the chance to see an electric car as part of the proposed Electric Car Pool scheme for Wolverton.

Marie Osborne from the Wolverton Steering Group said: "The Future Energy Show provided a great opportunity for people living in Wolverton and Milton Keynes to come and find out more about energy efficiency within their homes."

The show was part of a project being run by Wolverton Steering Group which has received funding from the Department for Energy and Climate Change to support people living in Victorian or solid-walled buildings to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

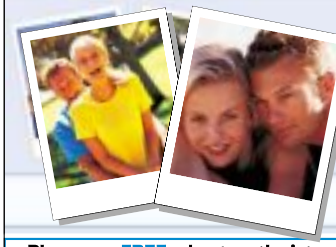
From left Claire Nichols (Future Wolverton), Helen Wright (Future Wolverton), Dan Hickling and Stephen Norrish (both MK Christian Foundation), Cllr Alan Richards, Marie Osborne (Convener, Future Wolverton) and Elsie Bryant (Project Manager, Future Wolverton)

Throughout the project the progress of a 1860s 'prototype' end-of-terrace house in the town is being followed as it is refurbished with internal solid wall insulation.

This type of insulation helps to reduce heat loss through external walls which can count for up to 85 per cent of heat leakage in a building. Mrs Osborne added: "Everyone who attended learnt a lot about energy efficient home solutions and improvements and feedback was really positive. We are looking forward to continuing to work with local residents to make Wolverton a more sustainable town."

During the event visitors kept their own energy levels up with locally-sourced, home-cooked food while youngsters were entertained with a bouncy castle and recycled craft activities.

To find out more about the project and follow its progress visit www.futurewolverton.co.uk/energy where you will find help advice about how you can make energy efficiency improvements to your own home.



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NICOLE lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388145**

TRIXI looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388135**

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SUZANNE likes travel, cooking, cinema, theatre, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388201**

SENSUAL discreet, mature, blonde lady, seeks discreet, mature gent for fun, friendship chats and text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 378865**

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 382227**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 382163** 📱

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 383159** 📱

JAN 50's, attractive, generous, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks nice male, 50-70 for friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 387273** 📱

SARAH 36, young looking, single mum, own home, seeks male to look after for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 383959** 📱

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, stays at home too much and looking for causal fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 385377**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 385373**

JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388137**

JEAN young 66, outgoing, enjoy life, genuine, likes walks, looking for genuine male, 60-68 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386349** 📱

ALICE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 387107** 📱

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 387103** 📱

46YR old female looking to be spoilt by an attractive young male, 46-48. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 390368**

VICKY attractive, black, likes cooking, seeks male, 50-62 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 387843** 📱

ATTRACTIVE female, N/S, WLTM male to enjoy life with, possible LTR, 45-54. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 387835** 📱

ANNE early 60's, active, professional, 5ft 7ins, seeks spiritual type male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 379231** 📱

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 383113**

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 383111**

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386303**

ATTRACTIVE black female, professional, late 40's, new to Luton, looking for friendship and companion to go to theatre, restaurants, dancing and long walks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 389898** 📱

SARAH 39yr old female looking for a little extra out of life, seeks male in similar circumstance to enjoy intimate mutually respectful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 379557** 📱

LINDA slim, tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 373327**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386301**

single men

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52YR old black male, honest, loving, seeks female for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388305** 📱

AMIABLE mannered, active gent, 59, interested in most topics, seeks lady for that certain something. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388227**

STEPHEN 45, tall, blond blue eyed male seeks eastern European or black lady for friendship, walks, reading, cinema, travel abroad and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388389** 📱

MALE with GSOH, 39, dark brown hair, slim-medium build, seeks mixed race female, 20-40 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386617**

MALE 49, loves countryside, WLTM female, 30 plus, size 14 plus, black/white, no ties for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388357** 📱

GENTLEMAN 62, believes in disciplined approach to life, seeks curvy, non assertive lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388223**

ITALIAN male mid 40's, romantic, good looking, successful, charming, seeks attractive female for fun and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 390384**

42YR old male, down to earth, GSOH, easygoing, affectionate, likes meals out, walks, countryside, nights in, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388065** 📱

SIMON 32, 6ft 2ins, brown hair, slim, good looking, easygoing, likes nights out and fun, seeks similar aged female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 390140** 📱

JOHN 43, easygoing, 5ft 8ins, sporty, seeks fit, attractive female, size 8-10 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386519** 📱

GARY 5ft 7ins, medium build, blue eyes, mousey hair, self employed, divorced, no ties, seeks young female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386045** 📱

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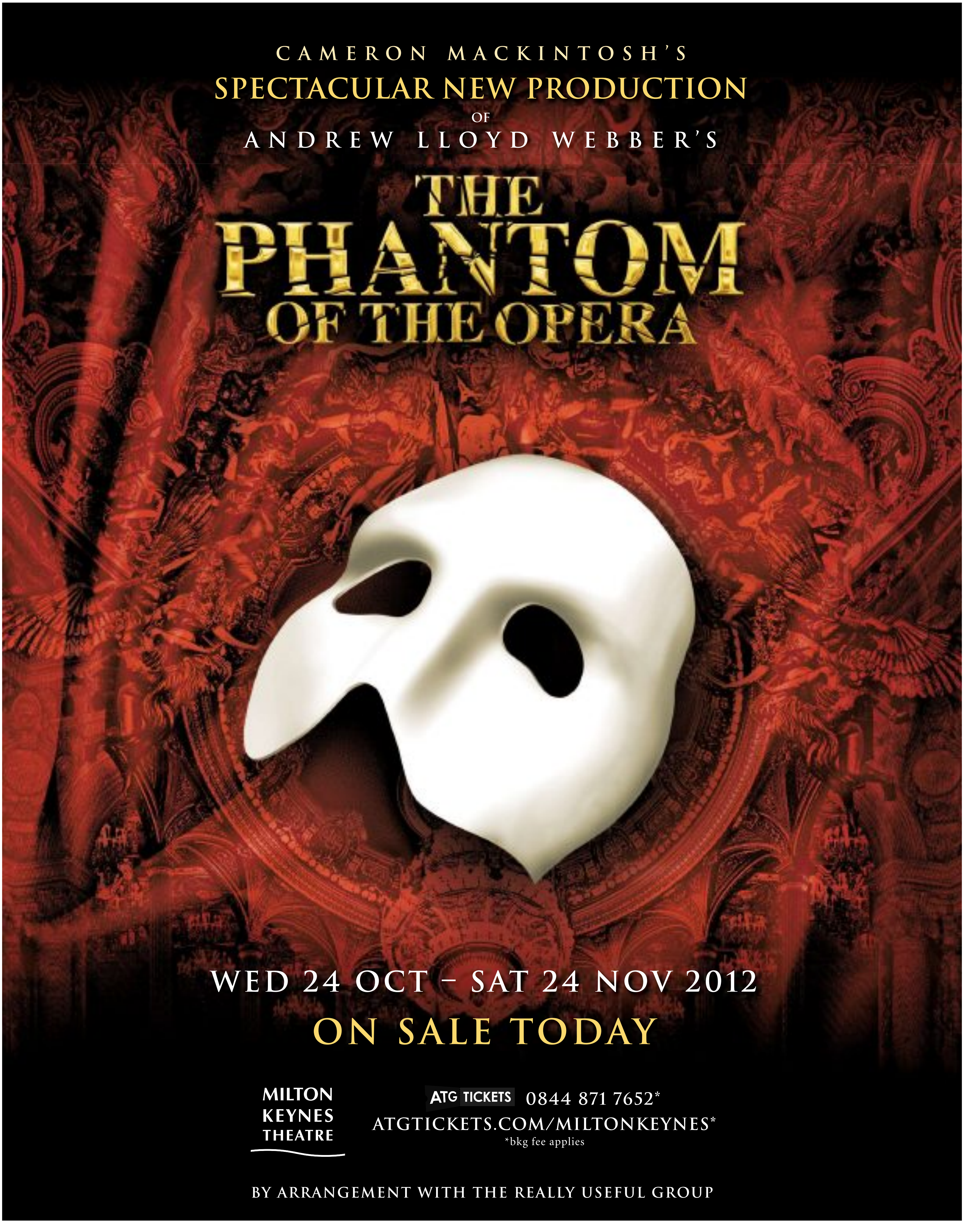

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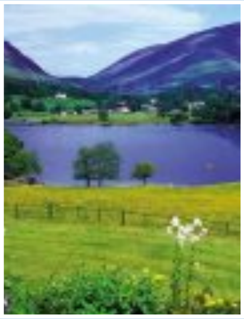

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Green bid: Pictured at the Midsummer Place Eco Week launch are Andrew Race from Crawleys, Anna Bullus from Gumdrop, Jasmine Dell from Churchill, Mayor Alan Richards and Martin Hindson from Midsummer Place

Shoppers urged to think eco-friendly

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

GREEN is the colour at one shopping centre this week as it tries to encourage more people to be eco-friendly.

Midsummer Place's Eco Week was launched on Monday by mayor Alan Richards.

The event is a combination of education, interaction and awareness-raising – all focused on the importance of recycling and sustainability

And there's lots of things on offer for shoppers – guess the weight of the bale of crushed cans to win a prize, donate your old clothing to Willen Hospice, check out an electric car, and see the bright new Gumdrop chewing gum pods, made out of recycled gum.

From Thursday until Saturday Growing Green activities will be on offer for the kids, to plant their own seedlings and take them home, and all staff at the centre are being encouraged to walk, cycle, use public transport or car share to work.

The activities are in place thanks to the shopping centre's cleaning services partner Churchill, and Midsummer Place's 'behind the scenes' recycling will also be on show.

Centre manager, Martin Hindson, said: "We feel it is incredibly important for us to demonstrate our various recycling initiatives to the public.

"We are continuously working to reduce our carbon footprint and give our retailers all the resources they need to ensure waste material is kept to an absolute minimum.

"Eco Week will become an annual event where we will share our latest developments and answer any questions the public has, while demonstrating that recycling can be fun and it is something that everyone can benefit from."

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Winners get to pick their wedding list

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

Making a list: Wedding winners Mark Baffon and Sophie Smyth receive a bottle of bubbly from Jill Mannas and Sheryl Cooper of John Lewis during their visit to the Wedding List Department

NOW that the big day is just a month away it's time to think about married life after the wedding.

And with a gift list service from John Lewis any couple will be well set for domestic bliss.

Not only has the department store kindly provided this service, it has also given Mark Besson and Sophie Smyth £200 worth of vouchers.

Miss Smyth said: "All the ladies in the gift list department at John Lewis have been lovely, they have taken the time to advise us on what to do and have been a pleasure to deal with each time we have attended the store."

John Lewis' gift list service offers an incredible choice of high quality products with free nationwide delivery and helpful advice from expert advisors to make everything as easy as possible.

Whether you're getting married, celebrating a new arrival, a big birthday or any important milestone in your life, you can set up a gift list and take the guesswork out of the whole thing.

The store stocks some of the highest quality brands including Georg Jenson, Villeroy & Boch, Sebastian Conran, Bose, Dualit, Le Creuset, Vera Wang and Bugaboo and you can shop in-store or from the comfort of your own home, by phone or online.

And as if this fantastic service wasn't enough, they are also making sure the mother of the bride looks her best on her daughter's special day by providing a fashion advisor to help her pick her £500 outfit.

To ensure that the couple have everything they could wish for, this fantastic prize also includes clothing for both the bridal and groom's party, a honeymoon in Mauritius, the wedding breakfast, a hogroast in the evening, the cake, flowers, a reception in Horwood House, a photographer and beauty treatments.

And to top it off, Whittlebury Hall will provide a meal for two in its Murrays fine dining restaurant on the winning couple's first wedding anniversary.

Keep up to date with all the preparations in MK NEWS.

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Anniversary celebrations at city salon

A CITY salon has celebrated 25 years of booming business with a visit from the mayor of Milton Keynes.

While other small businesses have crumbled under the pressure of the recession Elaine's Hair Studio in Giffard Park, has continued to thrive and on March 24 clients, staff and mayor Alan Richards came together to mark the businesses success.

Owner Elaine Stebbings explained that along with careful budgeting the key to the salon's longevity is the hard working staff.

She said: "We retain good, highly skilled staff who communicate well with clients who create a relaxing atmosphere and ensuring a warm welcome to everyone who enters and of course a spotlessly clean environment."

The salon, which includes a beauty room, Angel Eyes Beauty, has been adding a touch of glamour to the lives of their clients since it opened on November 25, 1985, and recently underwent a refurbishment to mark its anniversary.

Wine was flowing at the celebratory reception where the hardworking hairstylists and a group of loyal clients mingled with the mayor.

Ms Stebbings said: "Everyone remarked on the pleasant atmosphere of the occasion and a good time was had by all, not least the Mayor who remarked that it was a good opportunity to visit and chat with a successful local business in his ward."

A collection box was available for those who wished to donate to the Mayor's chosen charities.

Kingston Smith
Helping clients succeed

Backing the budget: Pictured left to right are Colin Fox with Adrian Houstoun and Mike Hayes of Kingston Smith and MP Iain Stewart

Thinking outside the box to boost economy

BY ADAM GRINSELL

adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

THE latest budget from George Osborne has been welcomed by one of the city's business leaders.

Colin Fox, chief executive of the MK and North Bucks Chamber of Commerce, has hailed the inclusion in the budget of the Patent Box tax incentive as being 'good news' for the Milton Keynes economy.

The Patent Box means profits from worldwide sales of products, that are protected by a granted UK or European patent, will be taxed at only ten per cent from April next year compared to the standard 24 per cent rate.

And with Milton Keynes ranked as the city having the 13th highest number of patents granted per 100,000 population in the latest Centre for Cities 'Cities Outlook' report, with 10.8 in 2010, Mr Fox feels this is a good chance for stimulation of the local economy.

He said: "For the business community there seems to be very good news, particularly the Patent Box.

"We have three university centres in the area, and Bedfordshire and Northampton.

"There's a lot of potential there in terms of stimulating economic growth and enterprise growth. The future of the city is based around the knowledge economy, and if we attract those kinds of companies the economy grows as well.

"We do already have a high level of patents coming out of Milton Keynes, and we want to improve that. We need to make sure we are doing all we can to stay in the top three or four for this measure."

He also pointed to infrastructure as being key to building on this 'knowledge economy', in particular the development of the east-west rail line.

He said: "Milton Keynes is right in the middle of the Oxford to Cambridge arc, and has some things that these two places don't have.

"We have more land, we have great infrastructure and transport links, and we've got reasonable access to the major airports, as well as Cranfield where a lot of business people fly in to."

New jobs for firm with head in the cloud

A CLOUD computing company which has recently opened an office in the city is expecting big things for 2012 – including more jobs for Milton Keynes.

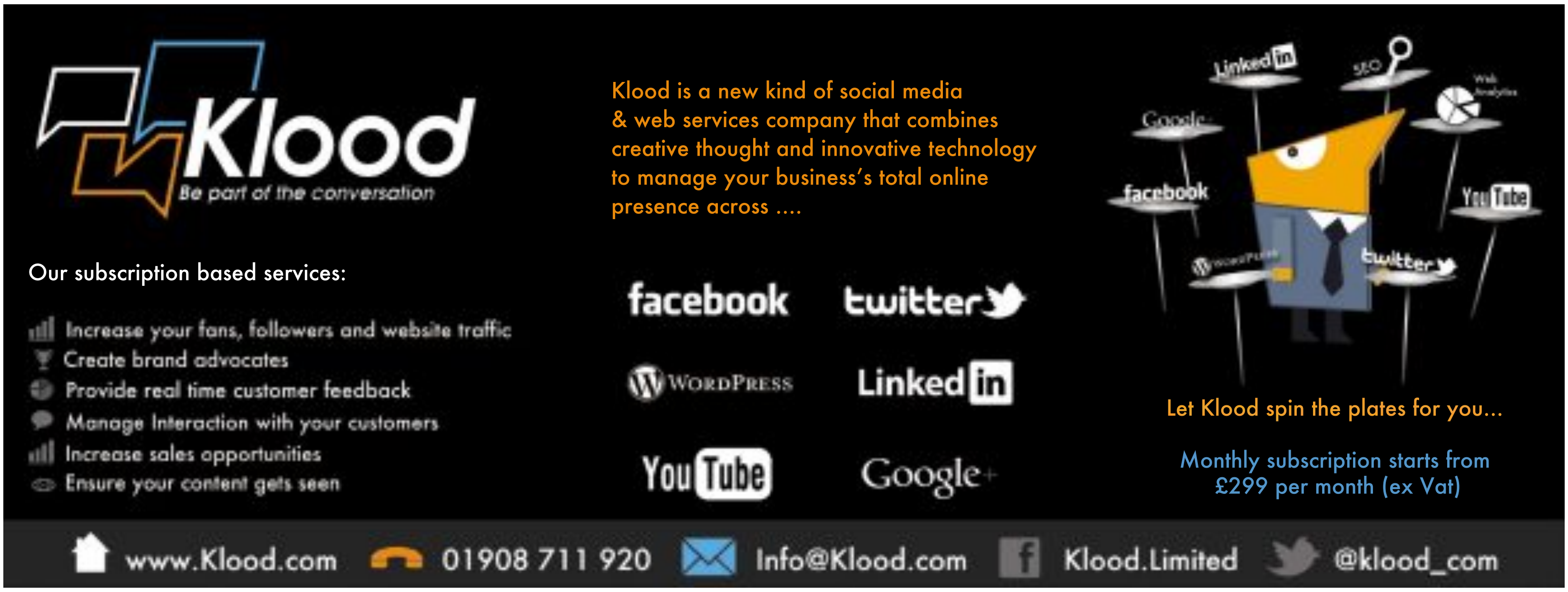
Accounting software company Xero, which created ten new jobs after opening on Avebury Boulevard, CMK, has announced the expansion of its UK operation.

Buoyed by record UK sales of its online accounting software in 2011, plans include the recruitment of sales and support staff to be based in Milton Keynes during 2012.

"We think 2012 is a landmark year for us," said Xero managing director Gary Turner. "We saw the number of UK businesses using Xero more than double over 2011 which points to a significant shift that is well underway, with many thousands of business owners now rejecting the expensive and inflexible packaged software that has historically been the only choice in the UK."

The additional investment follows previous investments of £12million from people including Paypal co-founder and one of the original investors in Facebook Peter Thiel, and Craig Winkler, the co-founder of accounting giant MYOB.

Mr Turner says investing further in its cloud-based practice software complements its client side accounting: "The availability of Xero Practice Management as a free cloud application for UK firms who support their clients running Xero's award-winning online accounting software will disrupt what is a stagnant sector, under-served by inflexible and more costly PC based software."



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MKBUSINESS

PR? You're doing it right now . . .

Carolyn Jardine of Jardine Michelson Public Relations talks about the importance of PR

IT IS a common misconception that public relations is all about getting people's names and products in the papers.

The function of PR is to inform, educate and influence people's perception and decisions.

It's about managing reputation, whether it be for an individual, a business or a product. In fact, you will be doing your own PR right now as you read this.

What you say, what you wear, the places you go and how you greet people, all help to create an image of you. Others will have a perception of you as an individual, wrong or right, based on messages you choose to give out. You will undoubtedly give different messages depending on whether you are wearing your business, family or social hat.

We base so many choices, often unconsciously, on our impression of people, businesses and institutions. For example, students who choose to go to Milton Keynes College do so not just for the learning, but how friendly the environment is, the facilities, how they found the staff and students when they visited and the lifestyle that Milton Keynes offers. Businesses, large or small, public, private or third sector, need a considered public relations strategy - it is not a luxury add-on but an essential discipline. It has to be managed with the right messages going out to the right audiences.

Ill considered or poorly executed PR can have disasterous consequences. Francis Maude's 'jerry can' moment has landed the government the blame for queues at petrol pumps rather than tanker drivers. It must surely be that the reputation, the PR image of mainstream politics contributed to George Galloway's victory in the Bradford West by-election.

It is a competitive world out there and every business needs to ensure its voice is heard. Places need managed public relations too: remember when the only thing anyone knew about Milton Keynes was concrete cows?

Take an event like the Red Bull Home Run – thousands of visitors came to see the world champions, toured the shops and cafes and refined their own impression of what Milton Keynes is really like.

Thousands more read about it online and also had their perceptions changed, and with more good PR, it's going to keep on getting better.

Bathroom Showroom
Bathroom Retailer of the Year Finalist
kbb
AWARDS 2012
FINALIST

Retail Finalist: Chris Leighton, owner of PHS Bathrooms

Flames fail to dampen firm's fighting spirit

BY DAN PALMER

dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

A FAMILY bathroom business bounced back from an arson attack to be named as one of the best in the country.

In April last year a vandal caused a considerable amount of damage to both the building and stock at the PHS Bathroom Showroom in Bletchley.

But the business recovered and made the shortlist for 'Bathroom Retailer of the Year' at the industry's KBB awards – a highly sought after prize as it is judged by industry peers.

The arsonist tried to break in to the showroom, part of the Saxon Park Industrial Estate on Holdom Avenue, but he was unable to gain entry.

He instead set the wheelie bins outside on fire before simply walking away from the building.

A fire crew were on site within 15 minutes but it took six fire engines and about 25 firefighters nearly six hours to control the blaze and put it out.

The whole incident has now been forgotten, though, as staff are instead celebrating being one of only four showrooms to make the prestigious shortlist – out of 3,500 in the UK.

A Scottish showroom was announced as the overall winner but PHS are still rightly proud of their achievement.

Staff member Jono Leighton said: "We will be trying to impress the judges again next year, but in the meantime we were the highest placed English company as the other finalists were located in Scotland and Ireland.

"It's great for a Milton Keynes business to have achieved such success especially during the current economic climate.

"We will continue to excel at what we do and offer great bathroom products to people of MK."

MKNEWSBRIEFS

AG Barr in MK move?

SCOTTISH soft drinks giant AG Barr is considering a move to the city. A spokesman for the Irn Bru manufacturer has confirmed the firm is considering developing a production and warehouse facility on the edge of Milton Keynes, in Magna Park. If the site is chosen, the move could create around 80 jobs, with production expected to start in the third quarter of 2013.

H&M is latest signing

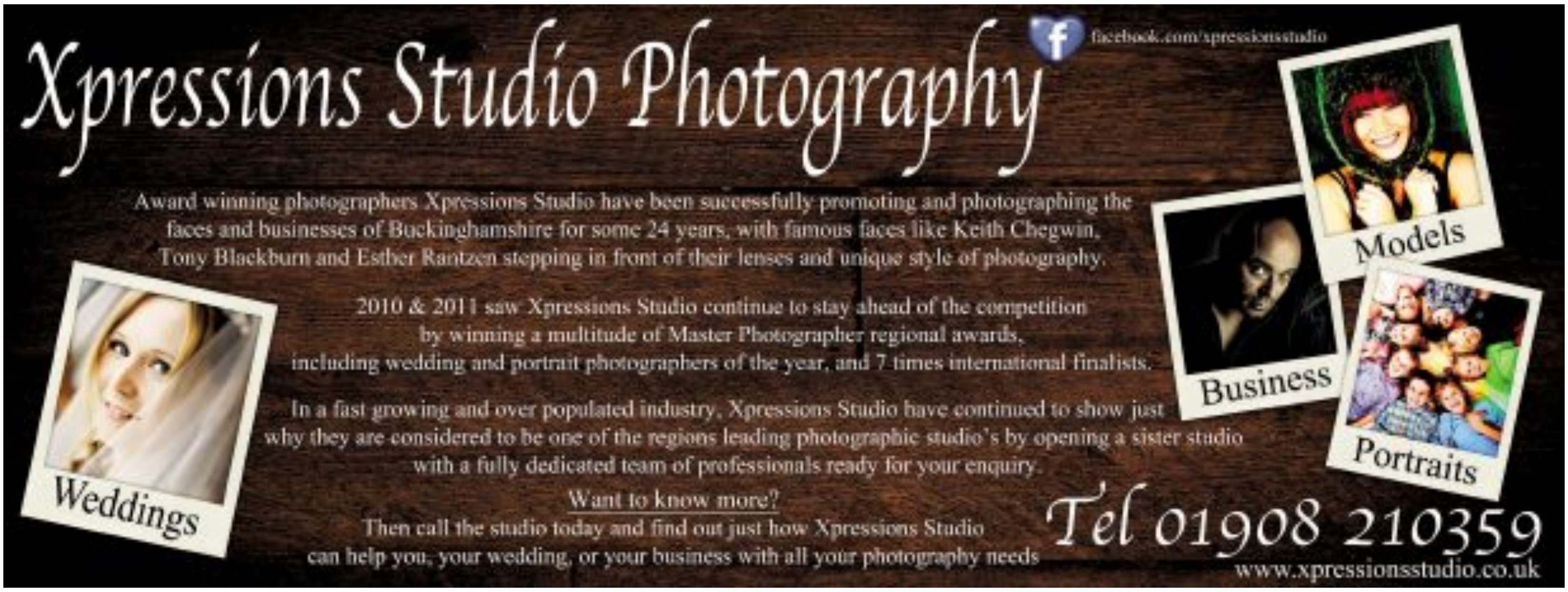
MK DONS chairman Pete Winkelman has announced fashion chain store H&M as the latest brand to be signed up to new retail park MK1, being built next to stadiummk. The music entrepreneur made the announcement at Hazeley Academy's business breakfast networking event on Friday morning. The store will join Marks and Spencer and Primark at the site, to become one of seven retailers at the park.

Pizza good news

DOMINO'S Pizza Group has announced a good start to 2012, with a systems sales increase of nine per cent to £144.2m in the first quarter. Like-for-like sales in 660 mature stores increased by 3.5 per cent. Six new stores opened during the period, and the company is confident of reaching its target of 72 new stores in the full year, with 12 planned for Germany.

Kemp picked by Theo

KEMP Professional Services, a local internet-based typing and transcription service, joined Dragons' Den entrepreneur Theo Paphitis at an event in Birmingham on Friday after being chosen as one of his six favourite small businesses in weekly Twitter competition Small Business Sunday. As a winner, owner Lesley Kemp's business is eligible for a profile on winners' site www.theopaphitissbs.com.



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MKNEWSBRIEFS

Barbara's aid project

A WOMAN who saved her own life with basic first aid skills after falling from a 40-foot cliff has now set up a website to help others learn. Barbara Cherryman, from Newport Pagnell, has created First Aid Cabinet where for a small fee users have unlimited access to 100 minutes of first aid videos, recognition sheets and treatment sheets. See www.firstaidonchildren.co.uk

Two join together

BROOME Financial Planning, based on Silbury Boulevard, CMK, has announced it has formed a strategic partnership with UBS, which serves private, institutional and corporate clients worldwide. Broome can now offer its clients access to global financial solutions including full access to UBS Wealth Management and the group's wider divisions.

Get in the swim

THE swimming pool at LA Fitness next to Willen Lake is now open to non-members for swimming lessons and a range of aquatic activities, thanks to a new partnership with Community Swimming Limited with the aim of getting one million more people swimming. The programmes available include adult and children's swimming lessons, which follow the British Gas ASA Learn to Swim Framework, taught by fully qualified ASA teachers.

Wickes raises cash

STAFF from Wickes Milton Keynes organised a quiz night at the White House Hotel near Little Brickhill on Saturday, March 25 and raised more than £700 for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research to help beat blood cancer. The money raised will help fund life-saving research into better treatments and cures for leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

All's fair as shop opens its doors

BY DAN PALMER

dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

A NEW shop which is up and running in Broughton has a simple message – let's play fair.

The eye2eye shop, on Swanwick Lane, promotes fairtrade products and has moved in alongside the Squeaks Organic Eatery cafe.

So far it has been a match made in heaven as both eye2eye and Squeaks exist specifically with the enrichment of the local community in mind.

The aim is to encourage local people to get out of their homes to meet up with neighbours in a child-friendly and warm environment.

In 2009 Sust! – a dedicated fairtrade shop in CMK – closed down causing disappointment for the city's fairtrade campaigners.

Helen Casey-Green missed the shop so much that she sold products independently, before launching eye2eye in Broughton after meeting Squeaks owners John and Katrina Creaser.

"We haven't looked back since then," Helen said. "We've had a positive response from the local community."

The shop stocks a wide range of food and homewares while the café offers healthy and freshly made meals.

Trading: Katrina Creaser and Helen Casey-Green inside Squeaks

Hundreds expected to attend at Cranfield's fifth VentureDay

SOME of the UK's leading names in business will take to the stage to share their ideas on entrepreneurship at the Cranfield VentureDay conference on May 10.

Among them will be Craig Sams, founder of premium organic chocolate company Green & Black's, and Warren East, CEO of British microchip designer ARM Holdings which designs chips for televisions, mobile computers and smartphones.

Now in its fifth year, the conference is hosted by the Bettany Centre for Entrepreneurship at Cranfield School of Management.

Around 200 entrepreneurs, investors, UK start-ups and advisors are expected to attend.

As well as being a networking opportunity, conference delegates will also benefit from exposure to Cranfield's latest pioneering research and insights into entrepreneurial issues.

Dr Stephanie Hussels, from the Bettany Centre for Entrepreneurship at Cranfield, which organises the day, said: "The growing importance of innovation and networking make events like VentureDay an easier way for start-ups, venture capitalists and advisors to collaborate and share best practice.

"We are delighted to have the support of so many high profile speakers as we know how much people appreciate hearing from experienced entrepreneurs and investors."

For information and to book see www.ventureday.co.uk, or e-mail wendy.lewis@cranfield.ac.uk.

HAVE YOU GOT A BUSINESS STORY?

E-mail Adam Grinsell at adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

Mum knows best for these networkers

EACH month our business section will feature a networking group and in this edition it's the turn of Mum's the Boss, a child friendly group for business women.

Mum's the Boss is the perfect way for busy mothers who are trying to set up a new business or grow an existing one to network with like minded people.

The group was established by MK Women and Work as part of their ongoing programme to support and empower women.

It prides itself on its child friendly nature where mums can get support and advice to help further their business.

Project co-ordinator, Janice Jones, said: "There's no commitment to turn up to every meeting and no membership fee just a small donation to help cover the cost of the venue and the tea and cake.

"Everyone helps each other; the women who come to these meetings aren't loyal to their business at the expense of helping others."

Mums can learn the tricks of the trade from informative and inspirational speakers who can help with issues from finance to Facebook.

New members are always welcome and will fit into the relaxed and friendly atmosphere easily.

Mrs Jones said: "There are some members that come to each meeting but not everyone can commit to that and we have new members every time."

The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at Acorn House between 10am-noon.

Each meeting costs £4 and crèche places can be booked at £6 per session.

For more information www.mumstheboss.co.uk/miltonkeynes

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Calcutta Brasserie in Stony Stratford is a multi-award winning Indian restaurant that has become one of the area's biggest business successes.

Set within the stunning Grade II listed Chapel, management understand that a breath-taking setting alone isn't enough to thrive in the competitive restaurant market. A fantastic product and a full customer experience are key to the restaurant's success, which has seen it named as one of the best Indian restaurant in the country at the British Curry Awards last year (and the year before).

Calcutta's Head Chef has been recognised as the second best Indian Chef in the country and his team around him are embedded with a real passion for their importance in creating a loyal customer base. Excellence in presentation and delivery are never compromised at Calcutta Brasserie which sets it above the rest.

Variety is also an important part of keeping Calcutta Brasserie 'fresh' for its customers. Regular live music events, innovative dining experiences like Dining in the Dark and celebrations where the restaurant constantly gives back to the customer have seen numbers increase week after week.

Established in 2008, Calcutta Brasserie is a precious gem in Stony and well worth discovering.

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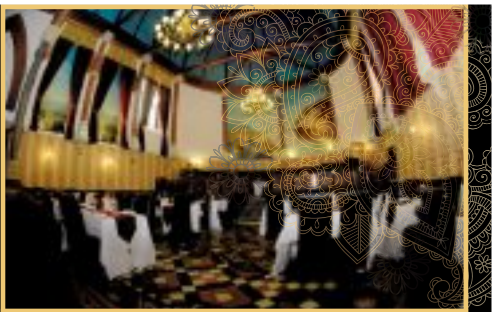

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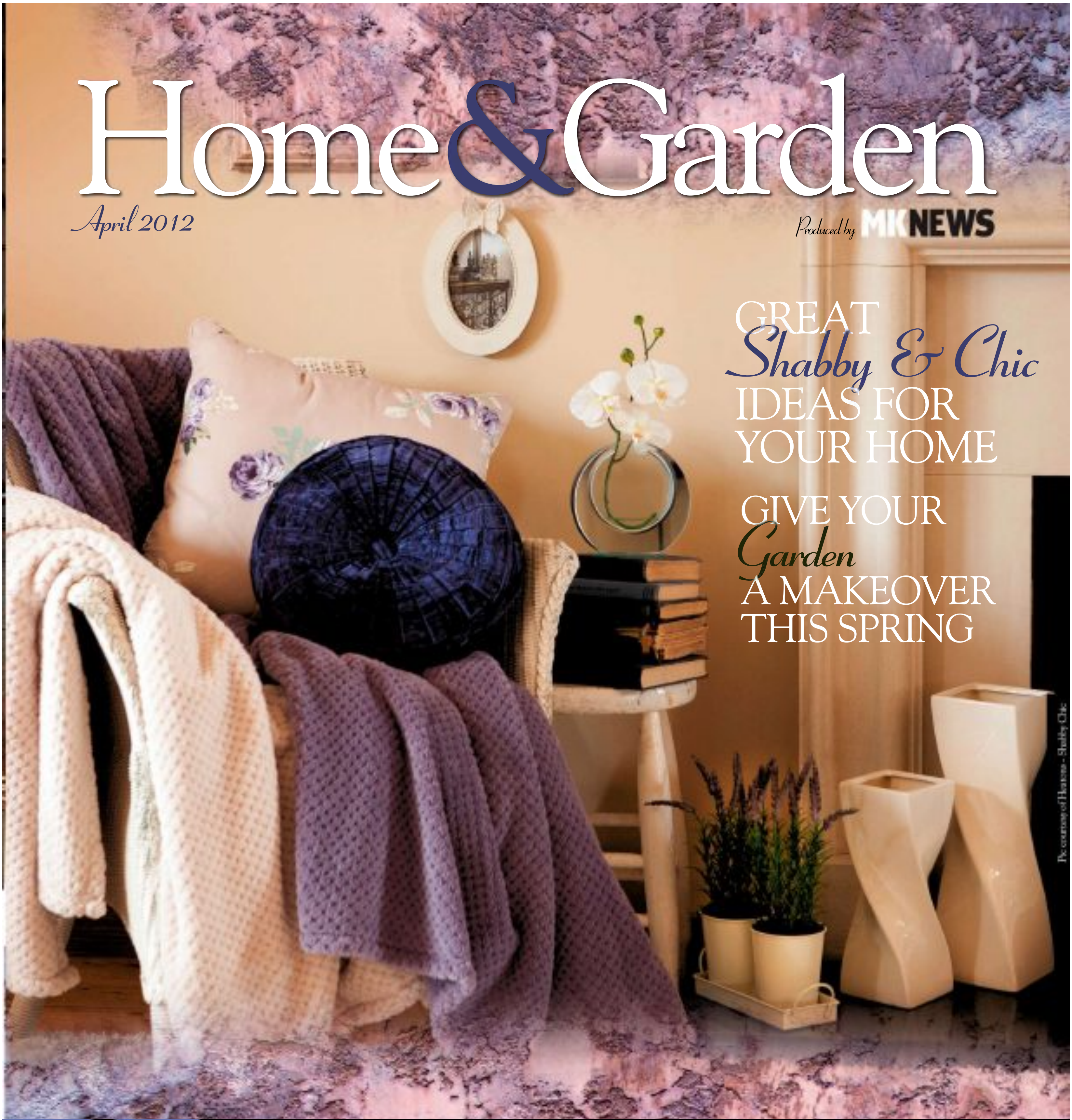

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Breathe new *life* into your home

You know what it's like - the days are getting longer, the sky is getting brighter - and all you can see is that your home looks duller! Spring cleaning can go a long way to breathing new life into a 'worn-down by winter' house but sometimes a little more inspiration is required.

Bedroom -
House of Fraser

Lavender Bathroom
- ISME.com

Shabby Chic
- Heatons

Well, don't fret. There's no need to take out a second mortgage to freshen up and make a few significant alterations.

Try re-positioning the furniture; it will cost you nothing and change the look of a room in a flash. If, previously, your sofa and chairs were against the walls, pull it all out and place it at angles.

What about changing rooms? No need to install lockers just swap over the location of the dining room with the lounge and the lounge with the dining room? Even in the smallest houses, there is usually sufficient room to make this change. If you've got a through lounge with a table and chairs at one end, see what it feels like to eat at the other end of the room.

> *"If you are on a budget even painting one wall as a focal point will look cleaner and brighter".*

There are plenty of inexpensive wall hangings on the market - whether it's a classic reproduction or a funky sculpture - but when you position it, hang it lower than you might normally think of doing. On the other hand, hang your curtains as high as possible to give the appearance of height to your room.

Plants always liven up any home decorating ideas and come in a multitude of styles and sizes. But if your track record in keeping them alive is not good there are some remarkably attractive silk flowers on the market these days.

With a little creativity - but not a lot of money - you can really look forward to summer at home.

Home Cushion
- Wilkinsons

contents

04 Shabby Chic
06 Bathroom makeover
08 Consider a conservatory
10 Here to help
11 Make use of your garden

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ShabbyChic Interior Designs

If you find that you start to tire of the shiny, monochrome stainless steel and neon-bright plastic elements in your life maybe it's time to embrace some Shabby Chic accessories!

It's not hard and it needn't be expensive but it may require a little time and inspiration to create the desired effect.

But what exactly is the look and where do you get it? Start with the prettiest of pastel shades, some deep, comfy chairs covered in washed out floral fabrics (they needn't match), wooden furniture painted in the palest of hues, wrought-iron curtain rods, picture rails, floaty curtains that billow gently in a soft summer breeze and vases full of fresh, cottage garden flowers.

OK, I know it sounds like a TV advert for old-fashioned cake mixes like your granny used to make – or probably didn't because she was busy trying to bring up 11 kids on sixpence a week in a council flat – but, done with some restraint, the idea behind Shabby Chic can be gorgeous.

Imagine the faded glory of a crumbling French chateau and transplant it into the traditional setting of an Edwardian English country house; bathe it in natural light and warm it up with discreetly camouflaged 21st century heating and you'll start to get the idea how Shabby Chic can be created, without freezing to death in a draughty old ruin. Shabby Chic is all about vintage accessories so if you are lucky enough to have any family heirlooms or antiques now's your chance to show them off. If your only legacy is a broken video recorder or a receding hairline then start searching through those charity shops, jumble or car boot sales.

It doesn't matter if you've got an odd assortment of stuff – it's what you do with it and the overall feel that counts.

The Shabby Chic palette is made up of warm, soft, delicate colours: white, gray, pink, light green, light purple and sky blue shades all glow with a delicate luminosity.

> *"Vintage, floral wallpaper is right on trend as are natural wooden floorboards painted cream or white - unpainted, they will look just too farmhouse rustic".*

Unfitted carpets or rugs are fashionably retro and will cover a multitude of modern style sins.

Authentic Shabby Chic interior design will incorporate vintage furniture embellished with carved details and artistically distressed marks.

Search out old furniture in flea markets, auction rooms, car boot sales etc, take it home, get out the sugar soap or Nitromorze and get stuck into refurbishing mode.

Shabby Chic furniture is chosen for its age or its wear and tear so choose anything that looks antique to you. Anything from a chest of drawers, a dressing -table, a stool, a telephone table - once it's stripped down, paint it white or any other pretty pastel colour. If you have the space a big, comfortable settee covered with a throw and piled up with colourful tapestry cushions will make a wonderful cosy retreat.

Combining stripes, check and floral patterns may seem like a right royal mishmash but in the world of Shabby Chic, you can mix and match using soft, fuzzy plush, cotton or silk fabrics and it will work.

Shabby Chic -
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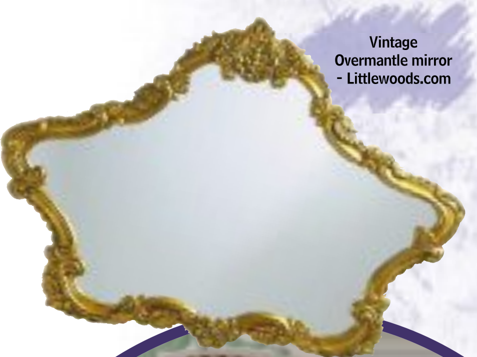
Add the final touches with Shabby Chic accessories that match your individual décor. Retro chandeliers, old paintings, flower vases, coffee and tea sets, candles, mirrors … in the end it's all down to what you have to hand and, more importantly, what you like.

The most common decorative elements are various size and pattern cushions. As long as they fit the color palette, the possibilities are endless. Shabby Chic addresses all senses and the olfaction one is of great importance. Either coming from fresh flowers, an odorant or from the rose and lavender oils, your home should be bathed in distinctive scents.

Having sensual motifs like fresh flowers, candles and soft fabrics, Shabby Chic embraces elegant old elements, silver accessories, painted wood pieces, fuzzy carpets and transparent drapery.

Therefore, an interior setting defined by Shabby Chic elements is as refreshing and comfortable as familiar scenery.


Vintage Overmantle mirror - Littlewoods.com

Teacup Candle - Debenhams

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Bathroom *Makeover*

Improving rather than moving is still top of the trends but research proves that the bathroom is one of the most daunting rooms in the house to renovate. If you're planning a bathroom makeover but are not sure where to start.

Get measured - The most important thing is how much space you have so measure up the room and make note of where the plumbing is before you hit the showroom. This way you'll be able to see what can fit where and how big you can go in terms of a bath, WC and basin. Wherever possible, it's best to use existing plumbing as making changes can be quite a costly exercise.

Decide your budget - Plan how much you want to spend. Don't forget to account for the taps, accessories, storage and even decorating equipment. Outlining this at the start will help you keep the entire job to budget.

Functionality feuds - Decide what key functions you need from your new bathroom. Is bathing the kids easily and safely the biggest priority? Or is it a luxury sanctuary that you're looking for? Agreeing what you need your new bathroom to deliver ahead of starting your buying journey will save you a lot of time and heartache.

> *"Wherever possible, it's best to use existing plumbing as making changes can be quite a costly exercise".*

Lavender Bathroom - ISME.com

Bathroom - Matalan

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Space saving options - We'd all love to have a palatial bathroom but in reality, it's often the smallest room in the home. If you don't have much space to play with then look for wall-hung basins and WCs. these will help make the floor area look bigger and create the illusion of space.

Shower power -Thermostatic, mixers, electric, rigid risers, fixed heads, flexible handsets; there's so much to think about when it comes to choosing a new shower and a lot of terminology to understand. Make a decision about what type of shower you want and whether you want the shower to be over the bath or in its own enclosure, although obviously this will depend upon space. You'll also need to understand what hot water system you have as that will have an impact on which shower will be compatible.
Ask your local plumber for advice.

Accessorise - Your choice of taps and accessories is just as important as your suite - especially as they're likely to be used several times every day. One of the most common mistakes people make is to splash out on their suite, but scrimp on their taps so make sure you reserve enough in your budget for these important final touches.

Don't get stung by Building Regulations - If you are planning a major renovation requiring structural works, you will need to check with the Building Regulations which cover changes affecting floor structure, drainage, ventilation and electrics. More information can be found at www.planningportal.gov.uk

Wetrooms flood the market - These state-of-the-art mini spas are particularly ideal for the sporty family in a hurry or where space is at a premium. They're a doddle to keep clean - no more slimy shower curtains or screens that get grained with limescale because the water simply drains away through a hole in the floor. But wet rooms do tend to be the more expensive option as the floor needs to be lined to make it waterproof. And be prepared for everything, including the loo paper, to get utterly soaked.

> *"Your choice of taps and accessories is just as important as your suite"*

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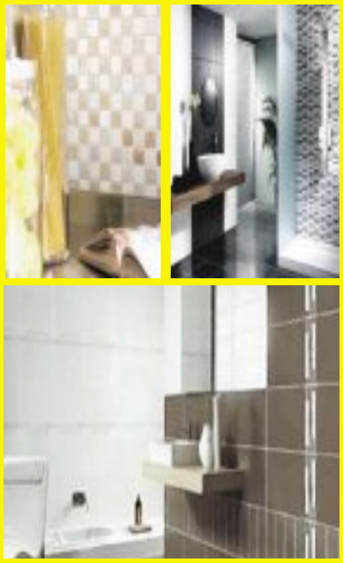

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Considering conservatories

People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones - but then neither should they expect to get an extra room on the cheap by adding a conservatory to their home.

It sounds like such a great idea. A conservatory gives you extra living space, a window on the world when it is too darn cold to sit out and a snug winter home for your geraniums. Not bad for the price of a family car. More than a quarter of a million are built each year, and this figure is on the increase. You can buy one at DIY stores as easily as a bag of compost and, unless you're in a conservation, heritage or other environmentally sensitive area, you rarely need planning permission to have one built.

But research at Cranfield University has found that, in the British climate, a conservatory is unlikely to provide more than two hours of comfortable temperature per day - the rest of the time it will be either too hot or too cold. If you want to use it as a permanent habitable space, then you will have to pay for a lot of energy to artificially cool it or heat it.

The only realistic way to keep a conservatory cool in summer is by serious through-ventilation - meaning permanent vents at low and high level.

And in winter there is no real prospect of keeping a conservatory warm enough for habitation without costly artificial heating; the problem with that is that all that lovely warmth will escape through all that lovely glass! The alternative is a sunroom or garden room with glazed walls and a solid insulated roof. The downside is that this sort of extension does require Building Control approval, but maybe that's a small price to pay for a comfortable, habitable room, rather than one that you can only use for two hours per day.

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Home&Garden

Colour Coding

Are you seeing red? Feeling blue? In a black mood? Maybe green with envy or preferably, tickled pink?

Rose coathook - Debenhams

Finding words to describe the way we feel evokes a veritable rainbow. So perhaps it won't come as a surprise to learn that the colours we choose to decorate our homes with may affect our mood.

Red is a colour that intensifies feelings. It makes a bold statement, can be very passionate and, incidentally, is the colour most chosen by extroverts! It can also can make people feel more hungry so consider using it in the dining room - or the master bedroom!

Tranquil blue has a cooling effect because it reminds us of water and sky; just the thing to settle a lively toddler in his room at bedtime.

Are you a morning person? If not, then maybe you should consider a cheerful buttery yellow for your bedroom or the kitchen.

Royal purple is rarely found in nature but it can be calming and enhance creativity. Consider employing the regal hue in an elegant sitting room or a creative room, such as an art studio.

Green - nature's colour of choice. Fresh, calming and relaxing particularly in living rooms and bathrooms, and worth a thought for someone who is inclined to feel a little depressed. Orange is a bold and exciting color.

It demands attention but it can be warm and welcoming when mixed with a little brown. Consider using coppery brown accessories in a living room.

Whatever colour you select, don't be afraid to take chances. Most people don't really want to spend their time living in a plain white, grey, or beige home but the key to being more daring is to concentrate on the accents. Employ the vibrancy of dramatic touches in moderation: the more intense the colour, the less of it is needed for it to be effective. It's easy enough to change a feature wall or a set of cushions if you tire of the colour, just make sure your basics are classic.

Bedroom - Matalan

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Growing your own vegetables

No stately home worth its salt would have functioned without a kitchen garden. Neat rows of carrots and potatoes, beetroot and beans were planted up and tended, year in and year out - those old nurserymen retainers knew their onions when it came to... well, onions.

If you aspire to grow your own garden produce you don't need a three acre walled garden and an army of cap-doffing, horny-handed men of the soil. A small, sunny patio and an assortment of pots will do. Pots which are about 25cm diameter will suit smaller vegetables. Big plants such as courgettes need at least 30cm diameter. Plastic pots take less watering than terracotta. Just fill them with a multi-purpose compost and remember to water regularly to keep them moist.

If you have space, a vegetable plot, even a small one, should produce regular pickings during the summer. The ideal position is sheltered from wind but in sun for most of the day, especially if you plan to grow tender plants like cucumbers and tomatoes.

If the soil already grows flowers or a lawn, it should be fine for vegetables. Dig the area over as deeply as you can and work in garden compost or soil conditioner to improve the texture.

There's no better way to ensure children eat healthily than to let them grow their own vegetables. Tomatoes are an obvious choice, especially cherry types, as little fingers can pick and eat them straight off the plant.

The traditional type of cucumber is a bit unwieldy but look for newer varieties which are ready when they're just 10cm long. Vegetables that produce something to eat quickly, such as radish, spring onion, baby carrot and baby salad leaf, are ideal. They should be ready in as little as six weeks in summer.

These are some of the easiest and most rewarding vegetables to start off with. They'll take up hardly any room in the garden and will give you a rich supply of fresh produce. Why fork out on salad leaves in plastic bags when you can buy packets of ready-mixed salad seed - or even buy separate packets of seed and make your own mix. Try Little Gem lettuce, red chard, salad rocket and mizuna. You can add other flavours such as coriander or mustard. Starting in April, scatter seed thinly. Cover with a dusting of compost and water regularly. After about six weeks you will be able to cut enough for a meal. The stumps should re-grow for second or third cuts. Sow plants a fortnight apart to get regular pickings all summer.

Carrots can be tricky to grow in the ground but in pots, it's easy-peasy - or rather easy-carroty. Choose an early variety such as Early Nantes, which will produce baby roots in six to eight weeks. Baby carrots can be pulled out as soon as they reach about 1cm across. Pull up as many as you need for a meal and then leave the rest to grow on. When you get the hang of this, baby beetroot and radishes can be grown in the same way.

Potatoes end up in the cooking pot. But did you know that they can also start out in a pot too? Forget the geraniums, this summer, why not adorn your patio with potato plants. Pick an early variety. You'll need one seed potato per 10-litre pot. Half fill the pot with compost and push the potato just beneath the surface. As shoots start to grow, fill up the pot with compost. Brrrr! Potato leaves are sensitive to frost so cover the young plant at night if it's chilly. Plant in April and by July, you'll have lots of egg-sized new potatoes; delicious.

> *"The ideal position is sheltered from wind but in sun for most of the day"*

"Little fingers can pick and eat them straight off the plant"

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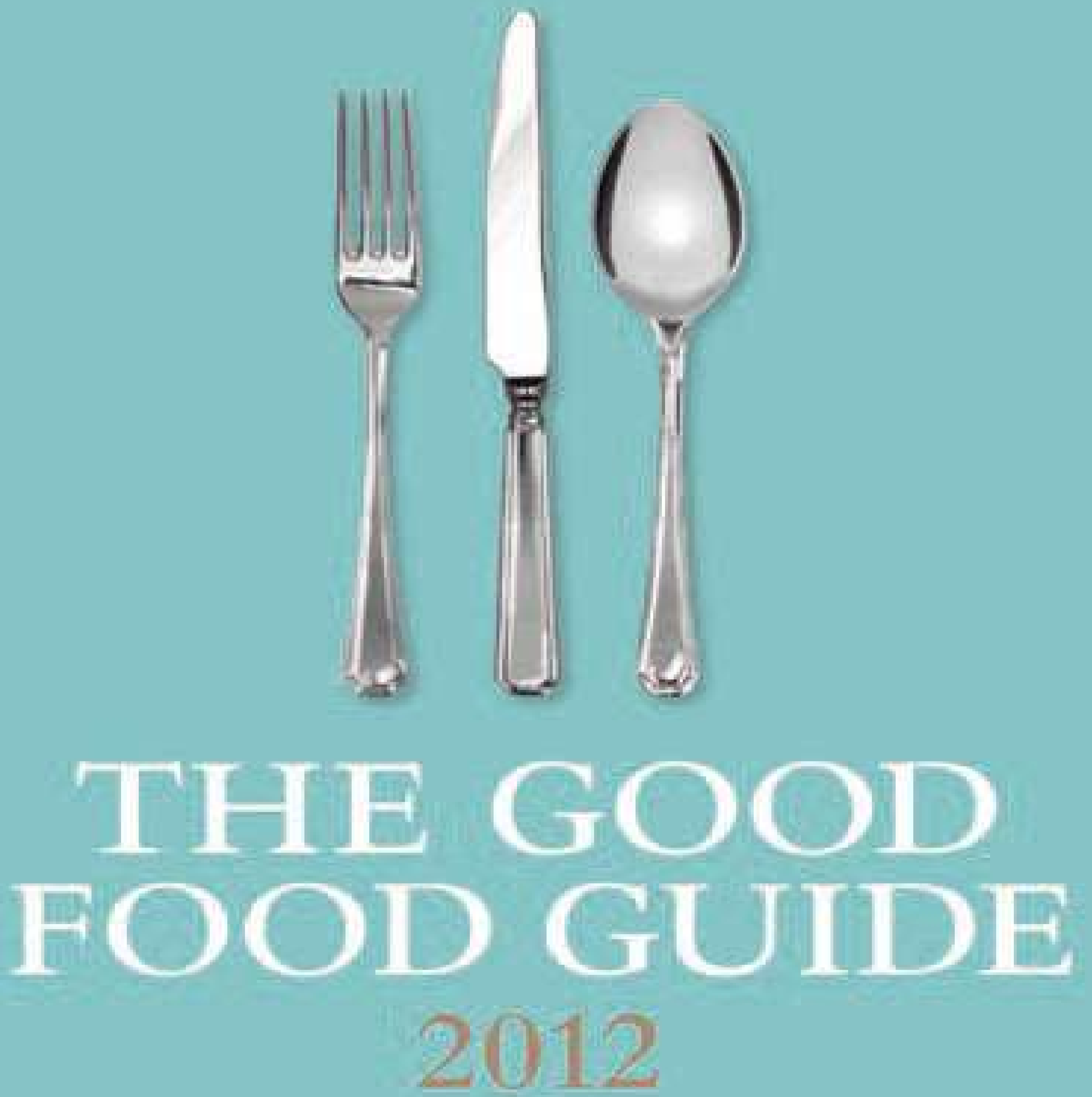
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Whats on this Easter

6th - 8th April 2012

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which according to Christian belief happened on the third day after his crucifixion. In the Roman Catholic Church, Easter is an eight –day feast called the Octave of Easter.

Many Christian denominations celebrate this resurrection on Easter Day or Easter Sunday.

The first Easter eggs, dating back thousands of years were painted red and the tradition of painting eggs (goose, duck or hen) continued and become more elaborate through the centuries.

The first chocolate eggs appeared in the early 1800s, although the nature of chocolate (at that time) made creating a hollow egg something of an achievement. A hundred years later the improved chocolate making process plus mass production created the commercially available, relatively low cost, chocolate Easter Egg and within the following hundred years it became the dominant gift for Easter.

As well as the giving and receiving of traditional gifts, Easter is also a symbol of spring approaching with, hopefully, better weather and longer days. The extended Easter weekend is also an ideal chance to get together with family and friends to enjoy the activities on offer in Milton Keynes.

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Choosing the right place to study can be as big a challenge as anything. It can make or break your time at university and, when you're paying so much on tuition fees, it's definitely worth ensuring you make the right decision. Whatever you do, don't follow your friends. It's so easy to apply to the same uni as your closest companion but this won't be doing you any favours.

University is a time to meet new people and gain new independence so attaching youself to your mates is not a good idea.

Location, location, location. If you're used to living in a quiet rural village, moving to a busy city, where crime will be of a much higher level,

may be a shock so make sure you're ready for it If you like spending your Sundays walking outside in the fresh air, make sure there's an open area near your uni.

There's nothing worse than being trapped indoors feeling homesick.

Distance from home will also be important. If you plan to go home regularly, moving to a university that's four hours away isn't going to do your purse any favours when it comes to booking your train tickets.

Obviously the course should be your priority when choosing where to study.

Follow your own heart, not that of your parents. Although they only have your best interests at heart, at the end of the day it's you who is taking the course and it's you that will suffer if the wrong decisions are made.

You can't go wrong with courses that have been accredited by an awarding body as this shows that the teaching is of a high standard.

Finally, even though your studies are of utmost importance, you do need to make sure there's plenty of other things going on for when you feel like taking a rare (yeah right!) break from working.

How far away is the nearest cinema? Have the student nights got good reviews? What are the shops like? Most of all, do what makes you happy, because, after all, happiness is the most important thing of all. Have fun!

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Stage Experience 2012 at Milton Keynes Theatre

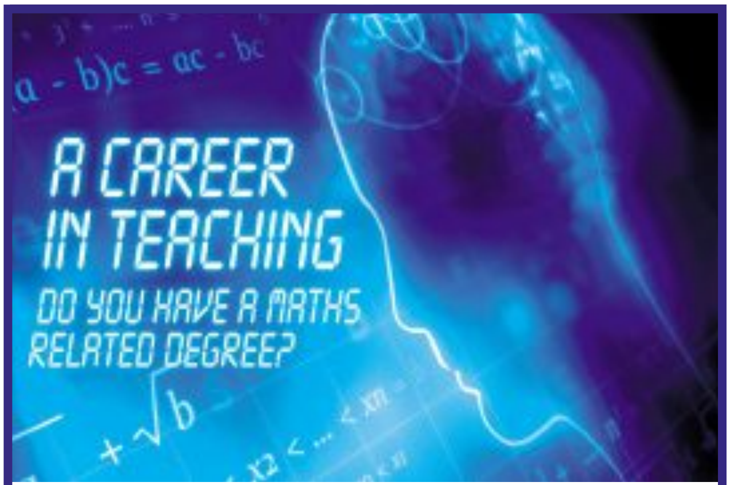
Following on from the success of Stage Experience last year where 150 talented young people took part in a full scale production of West Side Story at Milton Keynes Theatre, the theatre will once again be auditioning to find the most talented performers across the Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire area to take part in Stage Experience 2012. This year the theatre will be producing Guys and Dolls with 150 places available for individuals aged between 10 and 21.

Stage experience gives young people the opportunity to receive training in musical theatre by professional directors, choreographers' and a live orchestra in an intensive two week rehearsal period. By the end of the experience young people will have dramatically improved upon their performance skills and gained a new found confidence. The experience culminates in the opportunity for all of the young cast to perform on the Theatre stage. With an audience of up to 1,400, this is a once in a lifetime experience that all participants are unlikely to forget.

Stage Experience runs from Friday 17 Aug – Sat 1 Sep.

Technical Placements
Milton Keynes Theatre are offering technical work experience placements to anyone aged 18 + during Stage Experience, to give people the opportunity to gain back-stage experience shadowing the theatre technical team, whilst they prepare for and operate the live performances.

Stage Experience auditions will be taking place on Sun 15 Apr (call back auditions on Sun 29 Apr). For further information or an application form please contact 01908 547651 or email rachaelfindlay@theambassadors.com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MK LIFE

YOUR GUIDE
TO LEISURE
IN YOUR CITY

Make sure you save the last dance – see inside

INSIDE

Epic film Titanic sails back onto the big screen in stunning 3D **Page 48**

PLUS

Simon Darnell takes a look at the latest music releases page 46
Check out MK Theatre's summer line-up of shows page 47
Win £200 of Asda shopping vouchers page 48
What you can get up to this Easter page 49

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** | phone **01908 689595**

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Wed 25
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Park at Brooklands Farm School, Fen Street, Brooklands.
Brooklands 10am – 11:30am Free

Thu 26
TWILIGHT WALK
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Ouzel Valley Park 6pm £1/person

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BATTLE IN ME

Garbage

I DON'T know about you (no, trust me, I really don't), but for me Garbage's best album was easily their first one.

Nothing they've done since has managed to capture the energy and intensity that that set of songs offered up.

Fair enough, they've released good stuff since (Push It, in particular, is still a staggeringly great song), but it's all been a bit here and there.

Well, it has up until now.

This, their first single since the 17th century (a slight exaggeration), storms out of the blocks like an athlete on questionable medication and never lets up.

What's more, the band are giving it everything, there's no sense of going through the motions, because this is as clear a statement of intent from a band on the comeback trail.

Even Shirley Manson somehow manages to sound even more forceful than she did before, such an achievement should be impossible, but you can't argue with the evidence.

For a band that's been in business for the business end of twenty years, this is excellent, in fact, I'd say it's their best single since the aforementioned Push It.

GREYHOUND

Swedish House Mafia

YOU know the bit in Michael Jackson's Thriller where Vincent Price does his voiceover.

Well, the bassline for that part of the song was the first thing that sprang to mind when I heard this.

The problem is though, this song has a running time so short that the Eurovision Song Contest would reject it on the grounds of brevity.

Guess what takes up the lion's share of the time? Yep, the bassline.

There is a tune, so to speak, but by the time it finally bothers to turn up there's less than a minute left for it to strut its stuff.

Pity really, the tune itself isn't bad, but then that's something that could be said about Greyhound as a whole.

I refuse to believe that the version I heard is the full-length version, because if it is then Swedish House Mafia are having a laugh.

To give all its constituent parts ample time to shine this song should be at least a minute longer, possibly two.

However, if there's a longer mix doing the rounds I might be able to give that the thumbs up instead.

THE **STABLES** 01908 280800

HALFWAY TO PARADISE - THE BILLY FURY STORY

Saturday, 8pm

THE rock keeps on rolling in this tribute to a shy young boy from Liverpool, who is re-christened Billy Fury and becomes one of Britain's best-loved rock stars.

Halfway To Paradise is now in its 16th year and still furiously rockin', as Fury's Tornados play his timeless hits live - Last Night Was Made For Love, I Will, Jealousy, Halfway To Paradise and many, many more.

Add the beautiful voice of Colin Gold and you have a night of nostalgia made in heaven.

The show is set against a giant moving backdrop of this wonderful era and includes personal movie footage of Billy with his band. Tickets £20.

Robin Auld

ROBIN AULD

Saturday, 8.45pm

SLIDE guitar, harmonica, African blues guitar stylings and soul vocals all feature in the fresh and vibrant roots sound of Robin Auld.

An award-winning artist with an international CV spanning 20 albums, he is a powerful and accomplished performer whose energy has uplifted audiences all over the world.

His latest album, Fingers In My Pocket, is a collection of roots and blues songs.

African influences are never far away, with a reggae song and even a Cape goema tune to pepper the mix.

Tickets costs £12 on the door.

WOBURN **ARTBEAT**

THE annual Woburn ARTBEAT project, where high-quality original art is showcased by turning the village into an art gallery, is now in its third year.

The event kicks off this year on Friday and lasts for three weeks until April 27, with around 80 artists including painters, sculptors, photographers, glass sculptors, printmakers and ceramics artists all on display at 17 venues around the village and Woburn Abbey.

Locations include the Michelin-starred Paris House, the Village Store and Post Office, Bradford Street Gallery and Woburn China Shop.

The displays also include a prominent sculpture exhibition in the gardens of Woburn Abbey, which also starts on Friday and will be on display until August 31.

Woburn Abbey houses one of the most important private collections of sculpture, porcelain and furniture, and holds more than 250 paintings by artists such as Gainsborough, Reynolds and Van Dyck, and includes the newly-discovered Rembrandt - The Old Rabbi.

With more than 70 pieces by 28 sculptors, carefully selected and placed around the Abbey gardens, visitors will have the opportunity to experience work by established bronze sculptors like Maurice Blik, Kate Denton and well-known equine sculptor Philip Blacker.

Large scale abstract sculptures in cast aluminium by Jonathan Clarke will transform the traditional setting within the gardens.

Stone sculptures by Peter Randall-Page, Nicolas Moreton and William Peers will also add a creative and interactive opportunity for visitors to experience.

Creative director Johann Bester, of Bedford Street Gallery, is looking forward to the event getting under way.

He said: "With the support of Woburn Abbey alongside our sponsors thecentre:mk and Kimbells Freeth, this year we are really excited and confident to create a truly unique and exciting experience for our visitors to enjoy, learn, interact and experience art and sculpture in such a beautiful setting."

The aim for the non-profit-making Woburn ARTBEAT is to fund art projects in local schools and sponsor at least one artist a year to study and develop specific skills.

The organisers are also currently working with artists to create a set of educational booklets on the design and development process of art across all the different mediums.

It's free to visit the locations in Woburn, and viewing of the sculptures in the Abbey gardens plus a guide are included in the Gardens or Woburn Abbey and Gardens admissions tickets.

Abbey garden admission prices are £4.50 adults, £3.50 seniors, children aged three to 15 £1.75, children under three free.

For more information about what is going on visit the website www.woburnartbeat.co.uk/2012.aspx.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

MKLIFE | THEATRE

MK THEATRE 0844 8717652

MK THEATRE'S summer season has been announced today - and there are some really exciting highlights.

Here are some of MK LIFE's picks:

I88 May Dirty Dancing returns with the classic story on stage as the West-End Smash hit with the infamous story of Baby and Johnny, during what becomes the most challenging and triumphant summer of their lives.

June offers the one that you want! Grease up those quiffs and don your pink jacket - fancy dress is strongly encouraged and full audience participation is essential. With Sing-a-Long Grease. Also in June the fabulous family-friendly feel-good show, Sister Act, packed with songs inspired by Motown funk, soul and disco.

Agatha Christie lovers are in for treat in July as the Agatha Christie Theatre Company present a stylish new production of the queen of crime's classic thriller, Murder on the Nile.

The perfect whodunnit with an all-star cast.

Jools Holland

You can also join Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues orchestra in July as UK's most popular pianist and bandleader performswith his 20-piece rhythm and blues orchestra, led by former squeeze drummer Gilson Lavos.

You will not want to miss out, in August, on the international, award-winnng, all-singing, all-dancing romantic comedy, Legally Blonde.

Follow Elle Woods as she follows her boyfriend to Harvard Law School to win him back.

As the summer season comes to a close the sexy, sassy West End hit Chicago returns to razzle dazzle you with night club singer Roxy Hart and smooth talking lawyer Billy Flynn in September.

For more details and for the full listings take a look online at www.atgtickets.com.

MK THEATRE

SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME

Tuesday to Saturday

"'SAVE the Last Dance for Me' was" says Laurence Marks, "the second best title for a musical never written."

Not any more, though. With his long-time buddy and professional collaborator, Maurice Gran, Marks has come up with a feel-good, rom-com jukebox musical with exactly that title.

Having had a huge success three years ago with Dreamboats and Petticoats, Marks and Gran were approached by theatrical entrepreneur Bill Kenwright to write the book of a musical based around the songs of the talented fifties songwriting duo of Doc Pomus and Mort Shuman who are credited with hits such as Teenager in Love, Viva Las Vegas and Save the Last Dance for Me.

"Many of their songs" says Laurence "were million-sellers. There were a lot we didn't know and some we didn't like and we couldn't see a way to use them so we asked if we could use other numbers from the period that worked better. The songs have to push the story forward. It's like breaking a code."

"Does the lyric fit the narrative line?" says Maurice Gran. "I don't think we altered the story to fit any song but maybe we changed one song to another to fit the story."

The story centres around two sisters from Luton, holidaying in a caravan in Lowestoft. It's raining, the chip shop shuts at 8.30pm and it's like& well, a wet weekend in Lowestoft.

"There must be a very good underground scene in Lowestoft" says Maurice "because it's certainly not overground."

Suddenly they meet a handsome young American airman who invites them to a dance at the nearby US Air Force base. Cue a whole hit parade of pop songs from that exciting few years just before the Liverpool Sound changed the course of musical history.

It is a time that Marks and Gran remember well. "The early sixties was an interesting time" says Maurice Gran.

"It wasn't too long after the end of the Second World War and we were teenagers. Everything was new, it was unknown territory."

It is now 32 years since Marks and Gran started writing together. In that time, as well as writing for the theatre, they have enjoyed huge success writing TV sitcoms that include Goodnight Sweetheart, Shine on Harvey Moon, The New Statesman and that perennial favourite Birds of Feather. But how does the process of collaboration actually work?

"Maurice comes to my home where we have an office" says Laurence "and we sit down and argue. Then we spend a lot of time thinking; less time writing."

Save the Last Dance For Me

The next writing project for the team is a brand new stage play of Birds of a Feather starring the original, hugely popular cast of Linda Robson, Pauline Quirke and Lesley Joseph. "It's the first time that there has been a spin-off of a TV series to the stage" says Laurence.

So what does he think made that programme so popular? "I wish I knew" he says "but it's got funny characters that are recognised and loved by the audience and a good storyline. But it's the girls who are the real reason for the success; people believed in them as real people."

And if 'Save the Last Dance for Me' was the second best title for a musical never written, what is the best? "There's No Business Like Show-Business, of course" says Laurence.

Sounds to me like it could be a prime contender for the next Marks and Gran musical.

Judy Riley

STANTONBURY THEATRE

MYRA TIFFIN PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL

Thursday - Saturday, April 12 -14, 7.30pm. Sat matinee, 2.30pm.

IT is that time of the year when this prestigious performing arts school back to the Stantonbury stage.

After another busy and successful time performing in professional touring productions and in the West End and taking exams including the new ISTD Olympic Awards, the talented pupils, who range from 4 to 18, are back on their local stage to entertain you.

Whether they are dancing, singing or acting their fully costumed routines will display their versatility, dedication and professionalism.

With routines choreographed to music ranging from Gershwin to Beyonce anyone who sees this show cannot but be enchanted by these young performers.

Tickets are priced at £12.50 or £10.50 for concessions. Call the box office on 01908 324422.

CHRYSALIS THEATRE

IMPROBABLE FICTION

Friday-Sat, 13-14 April, 7.30pm.

TREAD the Boards theatre group are back with another great comedy from the ever-witty pen of Alan Ayckbourn.

In Improbable Fiction, we meet six aspiring authors, struggling to achieve literary success.

But their ambitions suddenly manifest themselves in a highly unusual and fast-paced ending.

They gather at their last meeting before Christmas to review their progress, or rather, their combined lack of it.

In an attempt to get the group out of its literary rut the chairman suggests that pooling their resources into a collaborative effort might be a way forward.

The idea is received without enthusiasm and the meeting closes.

But then... a clap of thunder, the lights go out, and strange things begin to happen.

Tickets cost £8.50, concessions, £6.50, call 01908 617908 for more.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

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Tickets £22

Friday 13 April, 8pm
JAKE & ELWOOD & THE BLACK RHINO BAND
Spend an evening in Chicago with this great Blues Brothers tribute who play all your favourites from the classic movie.
Tickets £23

Wednesday 18 April, 8pm
THE SCOTT MATTHEWS BAND
Singer-songwriter Scott Matthews joins us tonight with this full band as he tours new album What The Night Delivers.
Tickets £17.50

Thursday 19 April, 8pm
ACOUSTIC ALCHEMY
The jazz supergroup deliver acoustic guitar instrumentals filled with energy, vitality and infectious melodies.
Tickets £19.50

Friday 20 April, 8pm
CLARE TEAL
Clare's inimitable humour mixes perfectly with uplifting ballads and up-tempo classics both old and new.
Tickets £23.50

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Booking fee of £2.60 per transaction applies to all telephone sales

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LINk:MK Citizens Meeting

LINk:MK (Local Involvement Network Milton Keynes)
OPEN TO EVERYONE

Thursday 19th April 2012 at 5.30pm
Discovery Suite, Milton Keynes Christian Centre, Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook, Milton Keynes, MK6 2TG

Come and find out about LINk:MK and enjoy a *FREE BUFFET AND ENTERTAINMENT*

ALSO You will Hear about the all important ***'Healthier Together'*** Programme (formerly known as the Acute Services Review) from Ed Neale, Chair of Clinical Senate, Medical Director Bedford Hospital and Steve Lowden, Chair, Patient and Public Advisory Group. They will speak about the programme and how you can be involved/have your views heard with regard to the future planning of services that include five hospitals, Milton Keynes along with Bedfordshire, Kettering, Luton and Northamptonshire.

There will also be a presentation on Milton Keynes Councils New Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board that will look at all aspects of health and wellbeing provision across Milton Keynes.

If you need to reserve front row seating because of a Hearing or Visual Impairment please advise us. BSL Interpreter and Hearing Loop will be available and the venue is suitable for wheelchair access. Please be advised that there is a bus stop directly outside the Milton Keynes Christian Centre and the bus numbers that stop directly outside are: 1, 28 and 29.

It would be helpful for catering purposes if you would book a place, by contacting the Support Office on 01908 266696 or email sarah.linkmk@ageukmiltonkeynes.org.uk

We do not propose to send out booking confirmations prior to the event and agenda's will be available on the evening.

MKLIFE | FILMS | COMPETITION | GALLERY

FILM REVIEW

TITANIC (12A)

Synopsis: Box office smash gets the 3D treatment
Who's in it: Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Billy Zane

UNLESS you have spent several decades living in a hole, then the chances are that the film Titanic at some point caught your attention.

James Cameron's smash-hit movie was the must-see picture of the time when it first hit the cinemas and now you can watch it again on the big screen while wearing a pair of 3D glasses.

It is strange to think that the first film was released as long ago a 1998, the year when France won the World Cup and a 23-year old Bear Grylls climbed Mount Everest.

But they say the mark of a good film is if it stands the test of time and like it or not, Titanic certainly does that.

Thousands of films are made and then swiftly forgotten but Titanic will live on the memory for years, probably watched by generation after generation.

This is down to a couple of key factors, firstly the quality of the acting on show.

Millions were hooked by the heartbreaking love story involving Jack and Rose which was beautifully portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet.

The incredible spectacle of the supposedly unsinkable liner plunging to the depths of the ocean perfectly intertwined with the young couple's tale to create an absolute epic of a film.

Then there was the famous Celine Dion soundtrack which seemed to capture the emotions of the occasion perfectly.

Things are not perfect and some scenes, in particular a shoot-out which takes place on the lower decks, perhaps should have been left out.

Others have criticised this re-release, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the sinking in 2012, as a shameless way of cashing in.

But if you look at Titanic simply as a movie then you have to hold your hands up and say that this is as an incredibly well made epic which deserves full credit.

There is a reason why some people watched the film countless times on its original release and why they will probably go again a fair few times now.

Cameron of course went on to create Avatar, a record breaking masterpiece which has demonstrated just how good 3D technology can be at the movies.

He has returned to Titanic to oversee its painstaking conversion to 3D and fans of the original film will be in their element watching spruced up versions of their favourite scenes

A box office record-breaker and nominated for 11 Oscars, Titanic was the film everyone had to see back in 1998.

Now it has sailed back it is still worthy of your time, although, of course, most of you will already know what happens and how the film ends.

8/10

COMPETITION

WIN £200 of ASDA SHOPPING VOUCHERS WITH COLGATE SENSITIVE PRO-RELIEF

IF ice cold water makes you wince, or hot drinks cause you pain, the chances are you have sensitive teeth.

Fortunately there is something you can do to prevent the pain and we have teamed up with Colgate and Asda to give you something to smile about.

Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief" toothpaste offers instant* relief and lasting protection from sensitivity.

Containing Pro-Argin" technology, Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief" blocks the open channels to the nerve to prevent the pain of sensitivity before it starts.

Prove it to yourself.

The Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief Challenge invites you to experience freedom from the pain of tooth sensitivity by visiting the challenge road show.

You can out more and get money off your next purchase by visiting Asda in Bletchley on Sunday (April 8) between 10am and 4pm.

Colgate
Sensitive Pro-Relief
"Instant relief* that keeps on working – I'd never switch back."
Take the challenge today.

To help put a smile on your face we are offering one lucky reader the chance to win £200 of Asda vouchers with Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief.

To be in with a chance of winning just answer this simple question.

Which of these is likely to cause pain if you have sensitive teeth?

a) Ice cream b)Peanuts c) Marshmallows.

Send your answer together with your name, address and contact telephone number to MK NEWS, 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, MK15 0DU, or email competitions@mk-news.co.uk. The closing date for entries is 5pm Wednesday, April 11 and the winners will be notified. The editor's decision is final.

* When the toothpaste is directly applied to each sensitive tooth for one minute.

MK GALLERY

SCRATCH NIGHTS: HARK! PRESENTS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tomorrow, 6.30pm

HARK! invites emerging contemporary artists working in any medium to present unfinished work in a pop up exhibition for one night only.

The event is an opportunity for critical discussion, peer review and a chance for the participating artists to experiment and gain feedback in a supportive and friendly environment.

Artists will install their work throughout the evening while being free to chat, mingle and play with ideas.

To display your work, send 200 words about your practice, two images of the piece you want to install and any technical requirements for installation (MK Gallery can provide some basic tools) to hark.artists@gmail.com.

Alternatively, just pop along and join in the discussion. Free.

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM: TEOREMA

Friday, 6.30pm

THIS drama mystery has been selected by current gallery exhibitor Daria Martin.

An irresistibly mysterious engineering student arrives and yields each member of his wealthy Milanese host family to his seductions.

Upon his abrupt departure, the family experiences an unavoidable vacuum, embarking on a series of obscene lifestyle changes in order to deal with their loss.

At the time of the film's release in 1968, the film was praised for its refreshing depiction of European dissenters towards the state.

Costs £5 (concessions £3). Prebook on 01908 676 900.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

DAILY LIFE

TOMORROW

BRADWELL Abbey 'Rabbits Tale', story time & family friendly site tour starts 1pm. Hear a lovely story about the bunnies of Bradwell Abbey. Then explore historic abbey. Ideal for families with children ages 8 and under. Free, donations are welcome. Limited places, booking recomended contact education@mkcdc.org.uk or on 01908 227229.

WOMEN'S Walking Network, Linford Manor Park. Meet at Artworks car park, Great Linford, 10am £1 per person.

FRIDAY

NEED some chill out time after a busy week? Yoga relaxation and stretch at St. Michael's Church, OU Campus 6 - 7.30 p.m. More information call 01908 218915 or email hypnomk@googlemail.com.

SATURDAY

THE RULE of Law Book Launch by Author HRH Tina Beloveth Powerful, extracts from President Barrack Obama. This event is in 2 parts. 12 noon - 5pm Book Launch - cost: £10.00, 7pm - Late - black tie evening wear charity ball. Cost: £30.00 and includes African and Caribbean cruisine. Jury's Inn Hotel contact cristalevents@aol.co.uk.

SUNDAY

MK RAMBLERS figure-of-eight walk. Meet at 10:00 am by St. Firmins Church, North Crawley (GR SP927447). Both parts of the walk are about 5 miles and the second part starts at 1:15pm. Bring refreshments as required, more details 01908†564572.

Tell MK NEWS readers about YOUR event

Send details to andy.handley@mk-news.co.uk, or call 01908 689586. Remember to get the details to us at least two weeks before the event and we will publish them, space permitting.

MONDAY

CYCLE MK Sportive, choose from 100 miles, 100km or if you are new to sportives or a family ride 30km route. From Tattenhoe Sports Pavilion, all routes will be well marked with feed stations on the longer rides and on quiet country lanes within half a mile of starting. For start times go to www.racetimingsystems.com.

CHARITY quiz, The Barge, Woolstone. In aid of Willen Hospice. Costs £1 per player, 9pm start.

TUESDAY

WEST Bletchley Gardening Club. Dale Coleman talk on Ariculars and Carnations. 'How to propagate, grow and care' Cost: members £1.50 non members £3.50. Freeman Memorial Methodist Church Hall, Bletchley.

STACEY Hill Society Lecture,The History of Shoemaking by Tod Booth. In the Granary Tea Room at Milton Keynes Museum, doors open 7.15pm. Free to Stacey Hill Society members, non-members £1.00. More details www.mkheritage.co.uk.

WEDNESDAY

OPEN film society, The Hunter. Ali emerges from prison to be reunited with his wife and daughter. Disaster strikes his wife is shot by the police during a disturbance. Worse is to follow with the child. Ali takes revenge. Showing Old Lecture Theatre, OU, 6.15 & 8.45pm. More details www.openfilmsociety.co.uk.

MILTON Keynes Tennis Club open evening. Play tennis followed by cheese and wine. From 7pm Woughton Pavillion, Woughton on the Green, more info call Tony 07831 342440 or Trish 07583 023549.

YOGA meditation, chanting and relaxation at Portfields Community Centre, Newport Pagnell. 8 - 9 p.m. More information call 01908 218915 or email hypnomk@googlemail.com

www.mk-news.co.uk

EASTER ACTIVITIES

WITH so many activities going on around the city this Easter there's plenty to get egg-cited about so we have taken a look at some of the pick of the Easter Bunny's Basket.

At The Buszy (The Old Bus Station) they are going to be very busy with their holiday sessions.

You can choose from Hair & Beauty, Animation, Glee Club, Photography, Trashion, Graffiti, Street Dance, Arts & Crafts Club, Skate & Scoot, Cooking Club and Sew Damn Good.

All the sessions are run by Make a Difference at The Buszy and operate within a safe, structured and friendly environment. Staff are selected for their expertise and enthusiasm. Aimed at children 8+, check www.thebuszy.com for times and prices.

Interaction at Old Rectory in Peartree Bridge are opening their grounds for Dinosaur Eggstravaganza the most exciting prehistoric Easter celebration since the first egg was laid. Take the family and celebrate Easter by helping to dig up dinosaur skeletons and search out dinosaur eggs, scare yourself silly with stories of adventure and danger, relax in the beautiful dino-friendly grounds and gardens, and create some inspiring dino-art. April 7, 1pm-4pm, free.

Easter at Bletchley Park

At Bletchley Park the Easter Bunny Hunt and Easter Egg Trail will take place around the park on Easter Monday, with lots of chocolatey prizes to be won.

Kids will want to join the Hunt the Chick Trail in the toy museum where chicks will be hidden amoung a huge range of 1940s and 1950s toys and household items.

Along side these are all the normal exhibitions and displays, the park is open all over the holiday period from 9.30am-5pm for prices and more go to www.bletchleypark.org.uk

Down on Mead Open Farm their is lots of fun with the Easter Bunny Bonanza. You can meet the friendly Easter Bunny, earn a chocolatey treat in the new Easter Chick's Egg Hunt and take the Super Egg Launcher Challenge. And if that wasn't enough you can meet the super cute newborns in the Lamb Nursery and help bottle feed the older lambs. Mead Open Farm can be found near Leighton Buzzard on the Stanbridge Road check www.meadopenfarm.co.uk for prices and opening times.

Over the break why not have treat yourself to breakfast with the Easter Bunny at Wyevale Garden Centre in Woburn Sands. As well as decorating a gingerbread rabbit kids can meet the Easter Bunny and receive a gift. Cost £7.95 and includes a hot meal. Easter Bunny is their April 6-9 from 9am-11.30am. Booking is essential more at www.woburnsandsgardencentre.co.uk.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** | phone **01908 689595**

*Medieval Jousting
EASTER SUNDAY & MONDAY
8-9TH APRIL
AT KNEBWORTH HOUSE

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SATURDAY
6-7TH APRIL
Alice in Wonderland Easter Tea Party
Alice & friends performing on stage, plus Easter Market, activities & demonstrations

Entrance excluding House: £8 per person;
U4s Free; Family tickets £28.00
Gardens & Adventure Playground 11am - 5pm (last ticket sold 4.15pm);
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*JOUSTING @ APPROX 12.30 & 2.30 SUN & MON ONLY

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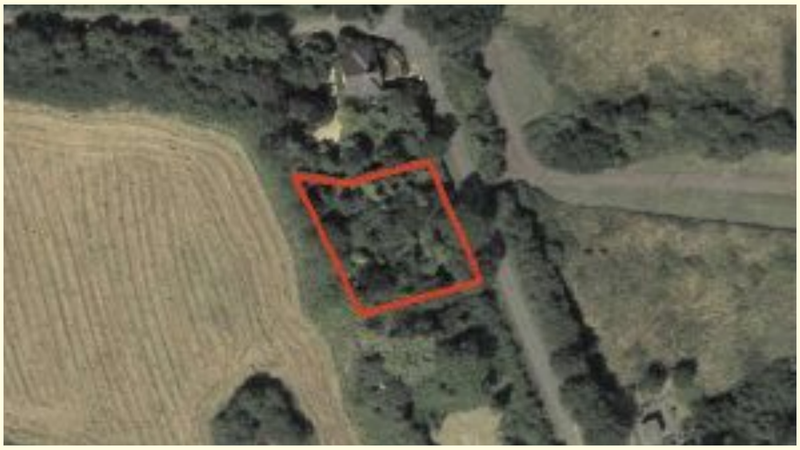

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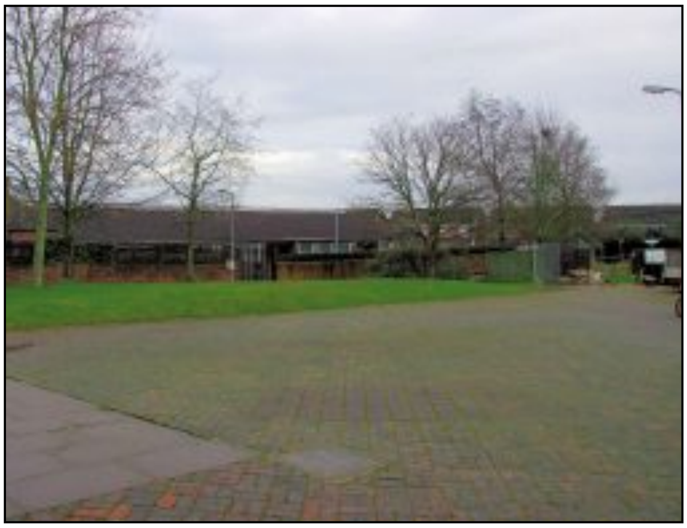

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LSN Media is a successful and progressive publisher of newspapers, magazines and associated websites across Beds, Bucks and Northants and is part of Iliffe News & Media Ltd.

An opportunity has arisen to join our digital team and assist in the development of our core websites by maintaining, developing and improving content on our sites to help continuously build traffic.
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You'll need to be well organised and self motivated with strong administration skills as well as having a keen interest in online publishing and media. You'll also need to be confident and personable dealing with internal customers from all departments.
Whilst experience in a similar role is not necessary, some technical knowledge would be useful, particularly if you have an understanding of SEO, although there will be ongoing training and development provided.
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Full training and support with be provided along with 25 days holiday per year, contributory pension and healthcare scheme after a qualifying period.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please email your CV along with covering letter that explains what you think you can bring to this role to gemma.dunne@lsnmedia.co.uk or send to Gemma Dunne, Digital Manager, LSN Media, 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes, MK15 0DU. Or for more information, please call Gemma on 01908 689575.

LSNmedia

It is the company's policy to employ the best qualified personnel and provide equal opportunity for the advancement of employees including promotion and training and not discriminate against any person because of sex, race, pregnancy, disability, marital or family status, ages, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or trade union memberships.

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Bedford Borough Council takes great care to recruit the very best people so that the services we provide to our community are first class. We believe that the best work gets done in an environment that's enjoyable and which values, supports and encourages the development of its employees. In return we expect our employees to work hard and be committed to help us achieve our vision and share our values.

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£30,851 - £33,661 • Quote ref: P001068
Permanent • 37 hours per week

For an informal discussion please contact Malcolm Parker on 01234 221693.

For full job details visit www.bedford.gov.uk
Closing date: 13th April 2012.
Interview date: 23rd April 2012.

The Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and positively welcomes applications from all members of the community irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, age and disability. Selection is on merit alone.

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The role is varied and will include checking compliance and working with members to gain compliance with CPD requirements. It also involves receiving and investigating allegations of misconduct with a focus upon examination misconduct and failure to comply with CPD regulations. This will involve investigation work and obtaining witness statements prior to giving evidence to a tribunal panel. The role will involve assisting in the preparation of cases for panel and Tribunal hearings.

The successful candidate will have experience of complaints handling, excellent oral and written communication skills and the ability to factually analyse relevant issues. Experience of working in a membership/examination environment or legal practice would be an advantage.

To apply please download a full job description and application form from the "About IPS" section of our website www.ilexstandards.org.uk or telephone Janet Pearson, Human Resources Manager on Tel. (01234) 844350.

Closing date for applications is 16th April 2012 and interviews will be held on 3rd and 4th May 2012.

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Required to lead the accounts team and provide relevant, accurate and timely financial information. This role demands a high degree of financial literacy and the ability to prioritise work in a pressured environment.

You will be a qualified accountant (qualified through relevant experience will be considered) and experience in a professional office and of staff supervision is essential.

Hours are an average of 37 per week all year round including some Saturday mornings during term time on a rota basis.

For further details and an application pack please visit our website:
www.bedfordschool.org.uk/support-staff-vacancies

Bedford Charity is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced CRB check, references and other checks.

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Practice & Business Manager
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Successful candidates will have previous experience of working in a production environment, of operating machinery and must hold a current fork lift truck licence. Previous experience of working in a food manufacturing environment is desirable. Candidates must be IT literate with GCSE / or equivalent in English and Maths (Grade C or above).

To Apply...

Please send a copy of your CV including covering letter and salary details by email to:
wyjobs@wellsandyoungs.co.uk or alternatively send by post to:
Debbie Moore, HR Assistant, Wells and Young's Brewing Company Ltd, Havelock Street, Bedford MK40 4LU.

Website:www.wellsandyoungs.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 11 April 2012.

Strictly no agencies. We are an equal opportunities employer.

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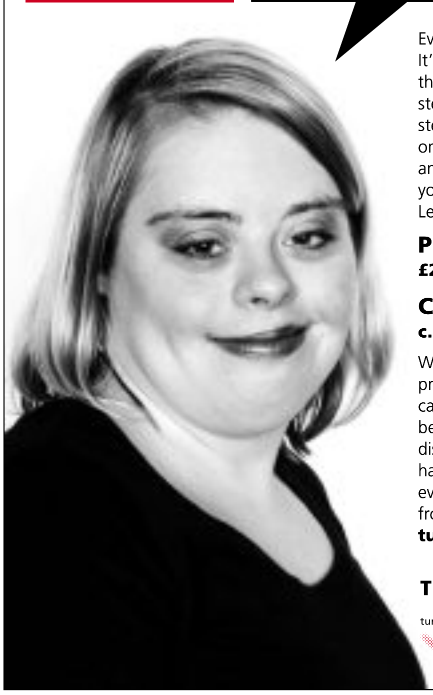

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Whether you are an experienced professional or looking to start a career in social care, if you share our belief that people with a learning disability and complex needs should have the same opportunities in life as everyone else, then we'd like to hear from you. Visit **turning-point.co.uk/workforus**

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At Milton Keynes, we're supporting the growth of our vibrant city while continuing to deliver excellent services. It's an exciting place to be and we're keen to get the balance right – including the work-life balance. So if you're looking for family friendly benefits and the chance to make a difference, make a move to MKC.

Inward Investment and Partnerships Manager

£37,206 - £42,786 **Ref: 50018506**

You will play an instrumental role in attracting new business and helping the city's economy to grow as you identify and secure opportunities for new inward investment and develop economic growth and infrastructure initiatives. Your strong knowledge of business and property will be matched by excellent communication and networking skills.

For informal enquiries please contact Helen Marshman on 01908 253205.

Closing date: 29 April 2012.

Team Manager – Community Social Work Team – Older People and Physical Disability Services

£37,206 - £42,786 **Ref: 50010834**

This is an opportunity to lead a large community based social work team working with older and physically disabled people in Milton Keynes. We are looking for an innovative manager who will drive the development of the team to improve outcomes for older and physically disabled people in Milton Keynes. You will ensure the work of the team is effectively allocated and monitored and conforms to performance and quality standards.

A qualified social worker, nurse, or occupational therapist, you will have experience of leading teams and managing adult safeguarding investigations.

This role is subject to safer recruitment practices.

For informal enquiries please contact Victoria Collins on 01908 253508.

Closing date: 22 April 2012.

Control Centre Operator

£17,802 - £21,519 **Ref: 50011150**

+ Weekend enhancement & shift allowances, 12 hour shifts (rotating days and nights)

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This role is subject to safer recruitment practices.

Closing date: 22 April 2012.

Interview date: 8 May 2012.

Care Assistant – Kilkenny House

£13,589 - £16,054 pro rata **Ref: 50011239**

14 hours per week

You will provide a full care service to older people, including personal, health, and social care, at our very sheltered housing scheme. Skilled in dealing with individuals with complex needs, you will be willing to undertake full training to CQC standards. Strong communication and observation skills will also be vital.

This role is subject to safer recruitment practices.

For informal enquiries please contact Linda Bowditch on 01908 506408.

Closing date: 22 April 2012.

To apply online visit: www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/jobs-careers
For an application form, email: jobs@milton-keynes.gov.uk
If you have a hearing impairment and have access to Minicom please phone 01908 252727 (office hours only). Please quote appropriate reference. Salaries will normally start at the first point of the grade. We are unable to accept CVs, unless accompanied by a completed application form.

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the stables

The Stables is one of the country's most successful music venues, promoting around 350 concerts each year. We also run education events, host a programme of conferences and produce IF: Milton Keynes International Festival.

Assistant Chef

Application Deadline – Tuesday 10th April

We now have an opportunity for an Assistant Chef to join our small friendly team providing pre-show dining and a full catering service in Café in2 at The Stables. Café in2 provides informal pre-show dining on concert nights as well as catering for visiting artists and various corporate events here. The ideal candidate will be qualified to a minimum of NVQ Level 2, have previous relevant experience and be competent to run the kitchen in the absence of the Executive Chef.

Hours of work will typically be from 1pm to 9.30pm, 5 days out of 7, including weekends on a rota basis. Salary will be dependent on age and experience. The post carries 28 days annual leave entitlement inclusive of bank holidays (some of which you will be required to work).

Marketing Co-ordinator –

IF: Milton Keynes International Festival 2012
Application Deadline – Monday 9 April
Fixed term contract from end April – mid August 2012
Salary £4,000 - £6,000 depending on availability & experience

IF: Milton Keynes International Festival 2012 takes place from 20-29 July and is expected to attract over 100,000 people. A well-organised and experienced Marketing Co-ordinator with excellent communication skills is required to assist with the development and delivery of the Festival's marketing and promotions campaign.

Job descriptions and application forms can be downloaded from www.stables.org/information or from holly.traynor@stables.org (01908 280810). Please note that CVs will not be considered without a completed application form. NO AGENCIES PLEASE.

The Stables is committed to equality of opportunity in recruitment. We value a diverse team and welcome applications from all sectors of the community. Charity No 261645.

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We have the following teaching vacancies for September 2012:

- **Assistant Director of Maths TLR 1**
- **Maths AST/Aspiring AST**
- **Subject Leader for Maths - Tracking and Intervention TLR 2**
- **Assistant Director of Science TLR 1**
- **Subject Leader for BTEC Science TLR 2**
- **Subject Leader for Health & Social Care TLR 2b**
- **IT Teacher**
- **History Teacher**
- **Music Teacher**
- **Drama Teacher**
- **English Teacher**
- **Philosophy & Ethics (RS) Teacher**
- **PE (Female Teacher*)**

Closing date: Left hand side, 23 April 2012. Right hand side, 15 April 2012.

We have the following support staff vacancies:

Senior Administrator/PA
MK5 £17,802 - £21,519 per annum - 37 hours per week, full time

Pastoral/Attendance Assistant
MK4 £15,725 - £18,453 pro rata - 37 hours per week, term time only

Learning Mentor (September start)
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*This is a genuine occupational qualification, in accordance with Schedule 9, Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010.

All posts require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. We are an equal opportunities employer.

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Brigham, Southlands and Holmemead – moving forward together...

To start September 2012 or sooner if possible...

Manager – 'The Den' – Before & After School and Holiday club provision

NVQ level 3 (or equivalent) in childcare or play work as a minimum qualification

From September 2013 Brigham pre, Southlands Lower and Holmemead Middle schools will become the Biggleswade *Academy* for 2-13 year olds. The members of the Governing Bodies who will comprise this overall organisation are looking to appoint outstanding members of staff to work within our Academy from **1st September 2012** or sooner if at all possible.

We are looking for someone with leadership qualities who:

- Can develop, lead and work as part of a dynamic and committed team.
- Can provide a safe and developmentally appropriate 'Den' programme in accordance with all legislation, policies and procedures across the specified age range; planning well to meet individual needs and interests
- Has a working knowledge of the EYFS and Ofsted requirements for the specified age range.
- Has a commitment to the importance of play.
- Is committed to personal development and is prepared to gain additional play and other work qualifications
- Has the ability to establish and maintain working relationship with co-workers, school staff, parents and other stakeholders across our entire age range.
- Is prepared to work inside and outside in all weather conditions
- Has a commitment to Equality and Diversity

The ability to remain energetic, enthusiastic and humorous whilst driving change during this exciting period of development is therefore a fundamental requirement!

This post is:

- 30 hrs per week (initially, subject to revision if required)
- NJC Level 4 - **£19,126 – £23,708** (pro-rata, starting point dependant on experience and qualifications)
- Minimum 22 days holiday + Bank Holidays (dependant on length of service).

Our three schools currently have 2 'wrap around' care provisions operating in different ways from Brigham and Holmemead areas of the site. From September 2012 these provisions will combine and be known collectively as 'The Den'. This will be an Academy run provision for all children and pupils aged 2-13 within our area, whether attending the Academy (Brigham, Southlands & Holmemead) for their regular schooling or not.

The further development of this as an outstanding provision is an exciting project for someone with the vision, drive and ambition to bring our collective plans to fruition for the benefit of our children and their families.

Informal conversations and visits to meet the team you could be joining are actively encouraged.

For more details contact Esme Wyatt at Brigham Pre-School on 01767 600309 or by e-mail manager@brighampreschool-theden.co.uk

The Closing date for applications is **12 noon** on **Thursday 19th April 2012**.
Interviews to be held on **Wednesday 25th April 2012**

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Term Time (Including 5 Training Days)

◆ The postholder will provide efficient administrative support for the Access Department, including taking minutes of meetings.
◆ Essential qualities include an interest in working with young people, a pleasant, approachable manner and excellent ICT competencies.

Further details including job descriptions and an application form can be found on our website: www.bedfordacademy.co.uk

Closing date: 16th April 2012
Interview Date: 23rd April 2012

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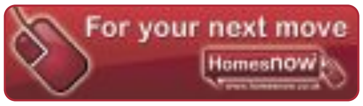

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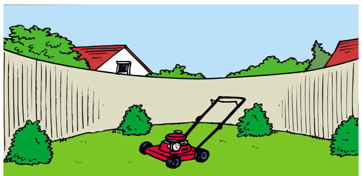

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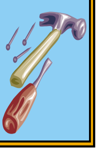

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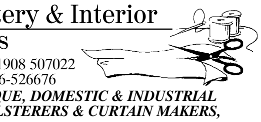

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SARAH 39yr old female looking for a little extra out of life, seeks discreet male in similar circumstance to enjoy intimate mutually respectful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 379557**

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. Any looks. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381363**

DIANE successful feisty business women, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTM him. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 379203**

BEE tall slim attractive 39, loves good conversation, sensitive but confident people and WLTM someone well balanced to entertain and appreciate. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 378477**

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, WLTM male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381365**

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380441**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381727**

KERRY 31 outgoing confident with laidback attitude, looking for relaxed relationship with tactile male, any age/looks/size or status. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381697**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 382081**

STEFF 32, slim, hazel eyes, long hair, curvy size 10, likes cosying up, cuddles, tickles, sick of being lonely and bored, not looking for complications just love. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 382159**

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381731**

ANN slim blonde female, lovely big blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTM caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 382085**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual for a sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 379975**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380001**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380853**

CARRIE 38 blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, curvy, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380881**

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTM sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's naughty indulgences with me. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380857**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381701**

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Public Notices

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE is hereby given that: Monica Ferguson on behalf of The Stables Events Ltd has applied to THE LICENSING AUTHORITY AT MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL for a PREMISES LICENCE.

At: Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, MK9 4AD

The following licensable activities are proposed during the following times: Live Music, Singing, Dancing, Cabaret and Talks I a tented Structure on the Events Plateau in Campbell Park between the hours of10.00 and 00.30.

Theatre Performances in Big Top on the Events Plateau in Campbell Park between the hours of 10.00 and 23.00.

A Public bar on the Events Plateau in Campbell Park and a Bar in the Spiegeltent operational between the hours of 12.00 and 00.00.

Full details of the application can be viewed via The Licensing Register at the Civic Offices of the Council. This is accessible Mondays to Thursday between the hours of 9am to 5pm, and Fridays 9am to 4pm (excluding bank holidays) or online at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/licensing

Any interested party (such as a resident or local business) or responsible authority wishing to make representations either against or in support of the application must do so in writing by the following date: 30th April 2012.

To the following address: LICENSING TEAM, COMMUNITY WELLBEING DIRECTORATE, MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL, CIVIC OFFICES, 1 SAXON GATE EAST, MILTON KEYNES MK9 3EJ. 01908 252800

Email: licensing@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Representations received in response to this application will ordinarily be made available for public inspection, including disclosure to the applicant and any relevant responsible authorities unless agreed otherwise. Representations must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives (namely crime and disorder, public nuisance, public safety, or protection of children from harm.) Individuals making a representation must live in the vicinity of the premise.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine of £5,000 is liable on summary conviction for the offence.

Dated this 2nd day of April 2012.

DESIGNATION OF STREETS IN WHICH TRADING IS PROHIBITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 21st March 2012 the Milton Keynes Council passed a resolution to prohibit street trading under paragraph 2(1) (a) of Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

All streets listed below including all roads, footways, forecourts or other area adjacent to the streets referred to in this resolution for a distance of 60 metres from the centre line of each street and shown on a map identification purposes only, which can be examined at Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ. The effective date will be 20th May 2012.

Broughton

Bewdley Grove
Cavan Way
Dean Forest Way
Kelling Way
London Road
Oakworth Avenue
Oxenhope Way
Swanwick Lane
Tanfield Lane

Karen Ford
Head of Regulatory Unit

Milton Keynes Council

The following applications may be inspected at the Planning, Economy and Development Department, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes. Representations, if any, to be submitted in writing to the above address within 21 days of the publication of this notice.

SECTION 73	**WITHIN A CONSERVATION AREA**
12/00579/FUL	The erection of a single residential dwelling with associated parking, on land to the rear of Mews Cottage (Resubmission of 11/02764/FUL) at Mews Cottage, 75A High Street, Stony Stratford.
12/00592/FUL	Conversion of first floor into 3 self contained flats, demolition of single storey rear building and use of land to the rear for parking and amenity area (Re-submission of 11/01606/FUL) at Formerly The George Inn, 16 Buckingham Road, Bletchley.
12/00600/TCA	Notification of intention to crown reduce by 20-25% one Horse chestnut (T1), remove lower branches to a height of 4-5 metres of two Sycamore trees (T6 and T7), remove lower branches to a height of 4-5 metres of one Yew tree (T5), remove lower branches to a height of 4-5 metres of one Maple tree (T11), remove two Holly trees (T12 and T8), crown reduce one Indian Horse chestnut (T9) by 20%, crown reduce one London Plane (T4) by 20%, prune two Horse chestnut trees (T2 and T3) at 1 The Clock House, Watling Street, Little Brickhill.
12/00657/TCA	Notification of intention to reduce back from adjacent property one Conifer (T1) and pruning of 3 Apple trees (T2, T3, T4) at 8 South Street, Castlethorpe.
12/00663/ADV	Advertisement consent to display signage to include 1 x main shop sign, 2 x pole mounted finger post signs and 1 x directional sign (retrospective) at Sherington Village Shop, 8B Church Road, Sherington.
12/00664/TCA	Notification of intention to fell 3 Golden Leylandii trees at 36 Lower Weald, Calverton.
	AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A CONSERVATION AREA
12/00598/FUL	Erection of single storey side extension and canopy over front entrance door (Resubmission of 11/02577/FUL) at Chestnut Farm House, 4 Dag Lane, Stoke Goldington.
12/00621/FUL	Erection of two storey rear extension with partial terrace at 2-4 Church Street, Olney.
SECTION 67 & 73	**LISTED BUILDING WITHIN A CONSERVATION AREA**
12/00448/LBC	Replacement of existing front door and top left window with identical door/window at White Maples, Watling Street, Little Brickhill.
SECTION 67 & 73	**AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING**
12/00606/LBC	Refurbish existing barn to ancillary accommodation at 7 Hopkins Close, Milton Keynes Village.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (AS AMENDED)
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES) ORDER 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
MAJOR

12/00594/FUL	Erection of 33 dwellings including 10 affordable housing units and associated works at Former EMEB Offices, Old Wolverton Road, Old Wolverton.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (AS AMENDED)
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES) ORDER 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
MAJOR

12/00703/MIN	Erection of a waste processing facility and associated infrastructure including the erection of a driver welfare building, access, parking and relocation of weighbridge (re-submission of 11/01991/MIN) at Bletchley Landfill Site, Newton Road, Bletchley.

Nick Fenwick

Assistant Director Planning, Economy and Development

MILTON KEYNES PARTNERSHIP
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
MAJOR

12/00677/MKPCR	Reserved matters application for Phase 2 Landscaping pursuant to outline planning application 05/00291/MKPCO at Area 10, Western Expansion Area, land to the west of Watling Street (V4) and north of Dansteed Way (H4), Milton Keynes.

Sheila Keene

Head Of Strategic Policy and Planning

Homes and Communities Agency

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES
(OLDBROOK BOULEVARD (PART) OLDBROOK)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes for the purpose of facilitating the holding of a relevant event, namely The Cricketers Family Fun Day, which is being promoted by Mr C Moor, The Cricketers Public House, Oldbrook Boulevard, Milton Keynes, intends to make an Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit all vehicles from entering, proceeding or waiting on that part of Oldbrook Boulevard, Oldbrook from its junction with the mini roundabout at Evans Gate to its junction with the mini roundabout at Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook. The event is to be held in the Cricketers Public House and on the field on the opposite side of Oldbrook Boulevard.

The alternative route for traffic will be via Oldbrook Boulevard, Underwood Place, Century Avenue and Strudwick Drive and vice versa.

The proposed Order will come into operation on Saturday 5th May 2012 at 12.00 noon and will continue in operation for a maximum of 3 days or until the completion of the relevant event, whichever shall be the earlier, but it is anticipated that the closure will be in effect until 9.00pm the same day.

There shall be no exemptions from the provisions of the Order other than for vehicles being used in connection with the event, emergency services vehicles and military vehicles on operational duties.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of reasons for making the Order and a map showing the area referred to may be inspected during opening hours at Milton Keynes Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, and during normal office hours at Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, quoting reference number WL/P&E/005132/TCO/1920.

Any person committing a breach of the Order will be liable upon prosecution to such fine as is prescribed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Philip McCourt, Assistant Director Law & Governance 4th April 2012

Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES
PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO WAITING AND PARKING CONTROLS
IN CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES APRIL 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes proposes to make four Traffic Regulation Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in relation to Central Milton Keynes. The proposed Orders, the titles of which are recited at the end of this Notice, will vary existing parking restrictions and introduce new parking and waiting restrictions, and will affect all classes of motor vehicles. The proposed Orders will have the following effects within the roads or parts of the roads stated below:-

- The relocation of the parking places for police vehicles from Saxon Gate East to Witan Gate;
- The replacement of the parking places for Police along Saxon Gate East with disabled persons' parking places;
- The introduction of disabled persons' parking places along Witan Gate;
- The relocation of the Hackney Carriage Stand along Midsummer Boulevard to the front of the Jury's Inn Hotel;
- The replacement of the Hackney Carriage Stand along Midsummer Boulevard with premium rate pay and display parking places;
- The introduction of Commuter Permit parking along Grafton Gate;
- The replacement of 208 premium rate pay and display parking places along Silbury Boulevard, Avebury Boulevard and Secklow Gate with standard rate pay and display parking places;
- The replacement of 14 premium rate parking places along Silbury Boulevard with 2 hour limited waiting, no return within 2 hours parking places;
- The replacement of 12 standard rate pay and display parking places along Lower Twelfth Street with 2 hour limited waiting, no return within 2 hours parking places.

All classes of vehicle are affected by the proposed Orders. Exemptions from some of these proposals include: emergency services and military vehicles, statutory undertakers, building, demolition and excavation and disabled persons' badge holders and some others.

Copies of each of the proposed Orders, maps showing the affected roads, Orders to be varied or revoked by the proposals and the Council's statement of reasons for proposing the Orders may be viewed at Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on any working day, and at Milton Keynes Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes during normal opening hours.

Any representations about or objections to the proposals, together with grounds on which they are made should be **sent in writing (not by email)** to the Assistant Director – Law & Governance, Milton Keynes Council, PO Box 111, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3EJ **to be received** no later than 25 April 2012 quoting reference BAS/WL-005084-1914.

Titles of the Proposed Orders

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES) (ON-STREET FREE AND LIMITED PARKING PLACES AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2002) VARIATION ORDER 2012

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES) (ON-STREET STANDARD RATE PAY AND DISPLAY AND PAY BY MOBILE PHONE PARKING PLACES AND VARIOUS PERMITS) ORDER 2002) VARIATION ORDER 2012

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES) (ON-STREET SPECIFIC AND PERMIT PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2002) VARIATION ORDER 2012

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES) (ON-STREET PREMIUM RATE AND LONG STAY PAY AND DISPLAY AND PAY BY MOBILE PHONE PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2002) VARIATION ORDER 2012

Philip McCourt, Assistant Director Law & Governance 4th April 2012

Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES
(VARIOUS ROADS, OXLEY PARK) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes has on 4 April 2012 made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the order, which comes into effect on 4 April 2012, affects all classes of vehicle and has the following effects in parts of roads within Oxley Park:-

- The introduction of 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions along parts of Redgrave Drive, Powis Lane and Hepburn Crescent;
- The introduction of 'No Loading' restrictions, Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 9.30 am and 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm, along parts of Redgrave Drive, Powis Lane and Hepburn Crescent.

Exemptions from the Order include: emergency service vehicles, military vehicles, statutory undertakers, building, demolition and excavation, disabled persons badge holders, and some others.

Copies of the Order together with maps showing the areas referred to and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during opening hours at Milton Keynes Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes and during normal office hours at Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in the Order on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of the Act or any Instrument made under the Act has not been complied with may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order was made, apply to the High Court for that purpose.

Philip McCourt, Assistant Director Law & Governance 4th April 2012

Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES
(ELDER GATE (PART) CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES)
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2011

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that because works to the Network Rail development in Elder Gate are near completion a temporary closure is now required to remove the temporary footbridge and scaffolding over the highway that was erected to provide a safe crossing facility for workers on site. Therefore, the restrictions brought into effect under the provisions of the above Order made by the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes on the 3rd February 2011, under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 will now recommence to allow the removal of the bridge during the dates and times stated below.

TAKE NOTICE that it is now intended to temporarily prohibit vehicular access along that part of Elder Gate, Central Milton Keynes from a point approximately 125 metres from its junction with the A509/H5 Portway, at The Place, to its junction with Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes. It is anticipated that the closure will recommence on Tuesday the 10th April 2012 from 10.00pm until 6.00am on 11th April 2012 and on Wednesday 11th April 2012 from 10.00pm until 6.00am on 12th April 2012.

The alternative route for vehicular traffic will be to proceed via Silbury Boulevard, the V6 Grafton Gate to North Grafton Roundabout and the A509/H5 Portway and vice versa.

The restrictions will be in force on the dates shown above and when indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

There will be no access for emergency services vehicles or Council gritting lorries along this length of road during the closures.

All other provisions of the Order remain as previously notified on 27th January 2011.

Philip McCourt, Assistant Director Law & Governance 4th April 2012
Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES
STAND FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES
MIDSUMMER BOULEVARD, CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes, in pursuance of their powers as Highway Authority under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, proposes to appoint and revoke Hackney Carriage stands at Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes in order to improve the through flow of all traffic and access to amenities in the area.

To appoint a Hackney Carriage Stand along Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes from the access road leading to the multi-storey car park for a distance of approximately 36 metres in a south-westerly direction, with 7 Hackney Carriages being permitted to be at the stand at any given time.

To revoke a Hackney Carriage Stand along Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes from a point opposite the north-eastern kerbline of Upper Fifth Street to the porte cochere north-east of that point.

Any objections or representations to any of the proposals together with the grounds on which they are made must be made in writing and sent to the undersigned to be received no later than 25 April 2012 quoting reference P&E-BAS-005084-1914.

Philip McCourt, 4th April 2012
Assistant Director - Law & Governance
Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes

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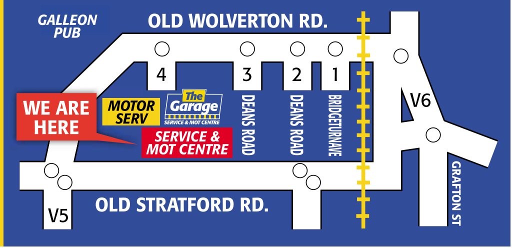
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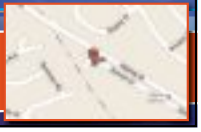

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DEAN Buss and Matt Broomes both found the target on Saturday as Newport Pagnell Town grabbed an away win at Cogenhoe United in the UCL Premier.

In the South Midlands Division One Stony Stratford went down to a home defeat to Harpenden Town, but New Bradwell St Peter grabbed a 1-0 away win against St Albans City Reserves.

Willen remain on top of the MK Sunday League Premier Division after a convincing 7-0 win over Loughton Athletic but Stony Stratford, who have three games in hand, are just a point behind after their 3-2 win over Great Mile Ash.

Padbury AFC beat CS Athletic 5-2 and Stantonbury Social A saw off Trade 2U 6-2 in the division's other games.

In Division One, AFC Santander are still top of the pile following their 5-2 success against Stacey Bushes, but second-placed Olney kept the pressure on by beating MK United 6-1.

Olney are only three points behind their rivals – who they face on April 15 in a likely title decider – with a better goal difference.

FC MIIX beat MK Legends 9-0 and Stantonbury Social B beat Punjab Utd 5-0 elsewhere in the division.

ATHLETICS

NO LESS than 15 Marshall Milton Keynes athletes represented their counties at the English Schools Cross Country Championships at Ilton in Somerset.

A great run by senior girl Beth Swords grabbed a top ten position, and the Buckinghamshire team won the Durham Trophy as the best group B county.

Meanwhile, a superb run by Marcin Fudalej saw him win the Oakley 20 mile race in a club record time of 1.50.30, with Jane Ovington coming third in the women's race.

SQUASH

MK SQUASH Club, based at Kiln Farm, have been crowned as Bedfordshire League 2 Champions.

Adeyi Gbenga, Steve McBride, Martin Johnson, Barry Smith and Dylan Harris represented the team on a successful finals night, and Steve Evans, Steve Burnett, Chris Plummer, Alan Dickinson also played and won during the season.

WATER POLO

THERE was a first win for MK Water Polo Club on Sunday, when Hitchin were beaten 18-4 to seal the inaugural win after five games played.

The club, which trains at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, is still looking for more players over the age of 16.

For more information visit the website at www.mkwaterpolo.co.uk.

HOCKEY

MK MEN'S 1sts have avoided relegation in the South League Premier Division One.

Rivals Eastbourne were beaten on Saturday to ensure safety, and on Sunday MK picked up a 4-3 win over Staines.

A resounding 11-0 victory over bottom of the table Abingdon Pilgrims kept the Ladies 1sts on course for a league and cup double.

Sophie Reynolds bagged five of the goals and Gemma Meredith (2), Kate Cash, Karmel Bracken, Lou Reynolds and Sarah Lowry also found the target to complete the win over the a club who have not scored a point.

The ladies have one league game left but also have the Investec Hockey Vase final against Oxted on April 14 to look forward to.

Elsewhere, the Men's 2nds lost 4-1 to Gerrards Cross but the 3rds saw off Leighton Buzzard 6-3 to prevent them from winning the league on MK turf.

There was a good point for the Ladies' 2nds who closed their season with a 1-1 draw at Newbury and Thatcham, and the 3rds saw off Abingdon 1sts 2-1 to finish third in their division.

Top two failure has knocked us all back

DONS skipper Dean Lewington believes that his side's back-to-back defeats could be down to a hangover caused by slipping out of the automatic promotion race.

Brentford took advantage of one of the poorest home displays of the season on Saturday with a 2-1 victory at stadiummk, just four days after Carlisle had also seen off Dons by the same scoreline.

A top two finish has always been the target but a run of two wins out of eight in March has resulted in the play-offs now looking like the only realistic route to the Championship.

Lewington, *pictured*, said that conceding a stoppage time equaliser to Buckinghamshire rivals Wycombe was the moment the players knew that their automatic hopes were over. And he said that the realisation had impacted the players.

"What you are seeing now is the disappointment in missing out on second place," he told MK SPORT.

"After the Wycombe game everyone knew in the changing room that we'd blown it really so it's been a bit down for the last week or two.

"There were a couple of bad results before when we could still make it up but it got to the stage where we needed teams to lose three or four games."

Apart from a strong opening ten minutes and a late flourish, Dons failed to get started against Brentford who scored two excellent goals in the first half.

Boss Karl Robinson had to cope without four key players and his side did not look themselves, lacking rhythm and fluency as the passing game struggled to get going.

The visitors worked exceptionally hard to prevent their hosts from knocking the ball around with their usual flair, and they adopted a physical approach with niggly fouls and strong challenges which disrupted the way Dons wanted to play.

It was an effective approach for Uwe Rosler's side and Dons could not find a plan B to combat it despite a whole lot of effort.

Lewington now knows the importance of shrugging off the two game blip and focusing all efforts on a possible play-off final at Wembley.

He said: "We've had a few draws from winning positions and just seemed to stutter a little bit. A big gap opened up to second place and we lost ground.

"It's hugely frustrating when you've been so close, and if we get to the play-offs hopefully we'll be over that. All attentions now are on getting out of the league at Wembley.

"We need to get the points required to the get to the play-offs, before trying to get through them and trying to win them. Everything we do now is towards that."

The skipper added that the state of the stadiummk pitch and injuries at the club has also taken their toll.

But he said that clubs remaining in the automatic promotion hunt could still have to go through what Dons are currently feeling.

He said: "If you miss out on the final day of the season then that's obviously a big disappointment, but we'd see the play-offs not as a disappointment but an opportunity."

Preston visit gives Dons the chance to play party poopers

PRESTON will be celebrating one of the all time greats when they host Dons on Saturday but Karl Robinson is keen to spoil the party.

The clash at Deepdale is a special one for the Lancashire club who will be marking the 90th birthday of legendary player Sir Tom Finney.

A bumper crowd is expected and David Beckham – a former Preston loanee – has even been tipped to appear to help with the festivities.

Dons however will only have three points on their mind and will be keen to ensure that the celebration does not have its dream ending.

Robinson said: "It's a lovely occasion and we're looking forward to being a part of it.

"But once that whistle goes it's war, I can't wait.

"If Beckham is there he can watch a great team play. Hopefully we'll put on a performance.

"We've got to go and make sure we respect Tom Finney, respect the occasion and win the game."

Preston claimed a 1-0 win over Dons at stadiummk in December, in a game which was beamed lived on Sky TV.

After relegation from the Championship last season they would have been hoping for an instant return but results have seen them fall way off the promotion pace.

The club appeared to be in turmoil following their defeat to Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday, when manager Graham Westley suggested that some of his squad had leaked details of his team and tactics to their opponents.

It's an extraordinary situation but Robinson said that he had not received such information and that he is expecting a tough game no matter what mood the Preston camp find themselves in.

"If that has happened it's embarrassing on the players' behalf," the manager said.

"But Preston are a very tough team.

"Okay, their form hasn't been great but we know that they beat us when we should have won convincingly."

Robinson has held individual meetings with every player ahead of the clash as he looks to end a two-game losing streak.

His side will have little time to rest after the match as Tranmere are visiting stadiummk on Easter Monday.

Dons wanted the Preston game switched to Good Friday – when Tranmere are playing – to benefit from an extra day's rest but this request was refused.

"It's difficult to prepare and go again in 24-hours and Tranmere should be fresher," Robinson said.

MK Dons assistant boss JOHN GORMAN writes exclusively for MK NEWS every week

I HAVE to mention Saturday's defeat to Brentford first to get it out of the way.

We don't like losing so it hurt us a bit, but once again I think that it was a game of circumstance.

After making an excellent start we were struck down by two killer goals.

People may say that it was a poor performance, and we huffed and puffed in the second half as we had to try and pull the game back.

But the lads never gave up and apart from their two goals and a one-on-one in the second half, Brentford didn't have any clear chances.

We don't like to complain about the state of the pitch and we will not be using it as an excuse, but although it is not the groundsman's fault it is in a poor condition.

I should also congratulate the fans for the noise they made as they kept singing even at 2-0 down.

Shaun Williams scored another cool penalty and we could have got a draw when Jabo hit the post in added time.

The important thing now is to not dwell on the defeat and to bounce back.

Perhaps we we were worrying about second place too much but now we want to beat Preston on Saturday and Tranmere on Easter Monday. We want to secure our play-off spot as soon as possible.

On Tuesday our U15 team are playing Liverpool, kick-off at 7pm, and it would be nice to see a good crowd like the one which supported them when they played Chelsea last year.

Watching our younger players perform is always an excellent thing to do and as there is the possibility of Seyi Ojo returning with Liverpool, it should be an interesting game.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to a former team mate of mine Barry Kitchener, who sadly died this week.

We played together in America, he was a giant of a defender who was tremendous in the air, and a lovely man.

THE LAST SIX GAMES

APR 7 PRESTON (A)
APR 9 TRANMERE (H)
APR 14 SCUNTHORPE (A)
APR 21 SHEFF UTD (H)
APR 28 ROCHDALE (A)
MAY 5 WALSALL (H)

LEAGUE ONE TABLE

			Home					Away						
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Charlton	40	12	6	2	40	17	13	4	3	32	14	41	85
2	Sheff United	40	14	3	3	47	23	10	4	6	31	19	36	79
3	Sheffield Wed	40	14	4	2	41	18	9	4	7	28	27	24	77
4	Huddersfield	39	12	6	2	32	17	6	11	2	40	23	32	71
5	DONS	40	10	6	4	41	21	8	7	5	33	23	30	67
6	Carlisle	39	11	6	3	37	28	6	7	6	21	30	0	64
7	Notts County	40	11	5	4	33	23	6	4	10	26	31	5	60
8	Stevenage	39	7	9	3	29	21	7	8	5	25	16	17	59
9	Brentford	39	8	5	6	30	22	7	6	7	23	24	7	56
10	Colchester	40	7	9	4	32	29	5	8	7	20	24	-1	53
11	Hartlepool	40	5	5	10	18	19	8	6	6	25	28	-4	50
12	Bournemouth	40	7	4	9	19	22	6	7	7	23	25	-5	50
13	Tranmere	40	8	9	3	22	14	4	3	13	19	30	-3	48
14	Oldham	39	8	4	8	23	23	5	5	9	22	33	-11	48
15	Yeovil Town	40	8	3	9	28	32	4	8	8	22	32	-14	47
16	Preston	40	6	7	7	26	32	6	4	10	22	30	-14	47
17	Scunthorpe	40	4	9	7	26	29	5	10	5	26	24	-1	46
18	Leyton Orient	39	5	5	9	18	25	7	5	8	23	33	-17	46
19	Bury	40	6	7	7	26	31	6	3	11	25	39	-19	46
20	Walsall	40	6	8	6	23	23	2	11	7	21	25	-4	43
21	Wycombe	40	7	4	9	31	31	4	4	12	27	42	-15	41
22	Rochdale	40	5	8	7	24	30	2	6	12	14	35	-27	35
23	Exeter City	40	6	7	7	22	25	2	4	14	12	38	-29	35
24	Chesterfield	40	5	6	9	18	29	2	6	12	24	41	-28	33

Not including last night's matches.

FIRST WITH THE MATCH REPORT www.mk-news.co.uk AFTER THE FINAL WHISTLE

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SPORTSSHORTS

TOURING CARS

JAMES Nash looked impressive at the second round of the World Touring Car Championships in Valencia this weekend, but it wasn't quite enough to earn the Newport Pagnell driver any points.

The Team AoN man started both of Sunday's races from 16th on the grid but battled his way up to 11th on each occasion.

However, in race one he had to concede position near to the end – resulting in a 12th place finish – and in race two a broken suspension, the result of an earlier contact with another car, forced him to retire with five laps to go.

Nash also suffered a blow during the opening round of the championship in Italy, when he was caught up in a crash at the first bend.

But he has proven that when his machinery allows he possesses the race craft to compete at the highest level.

He said: "I got good starts in both races which is critical when the field is as competitive as it is in the World Touring Cars Championship.

"We had some good racing thereafter, the highlight I guess was passing former F1 driver Tiago Montiero in an out-braking manoeuvre.

"It was a shame to finish race two early in the pits but all in all I'm not too disappointed with how we've gone this weekend.

"We're continuing to make progress with the Ford Focus which is brand new this season and we're going to concentrate our minds on the chassis between now and the next meeting in two weeks' time. There is definitely time to be found in the car as we develop it.

"Nevertheless, our race pace today was on the edge of the top ten in spite of us having to carry a 30kg weight penalty until we can fit some redesigned parts.

"So going forward, there are good reasons to be optimistic for the Championship ahead."

The season next moves on to Morocco on April 14/15, for two races on the Marrakech Street Circuit

Defending champion Yvan Muller currently sits on top of the standings.

BADMINTON

THE city's National Badminton Centre is celebrating a double success after two homegrown title wins at the Finnish Open.

England's number one Rajiv Ouseph became men's singles champion and Anglo-Scottish pair Chris Adcock and Imogen Bankier captured the mixed doubles crown.

Ouseph, who is set to represent Great Britain at the Olympics this summer, saw off Sweden's Henri Hurskainen in a hard-fought final in Vantaa.

He pulled back from 17-14 down in the first game to take it 21-18 before the Swede hit back to take the second 21-16.

In the decider Ouseph was seemingly cruising at 13-5 but Hurskainen fought back to trail by just one point at 19-18 before the Englishman claimed the next two points to seal victory.

Ouseph gained 4,000 ranking points with the win and he is now closing in on a return to the world's top 20 as he prepares for the European Championships in Karlskrona, Sweden, in a fortnight.

World silver medallists Adcock and Bankier took on Denmark's Anders Skaarup Rasmussen and Sara Thygesen and won 22-24, 21-12, 21-13 to cancel out the success of rivals Nathan Robertson and Jenny Wallwork in Poland last weekend.

TABLE TENNIS

ANDREW Baggaley is hoping to seal his spot at London 2012 when the European Olympic Qualifying tournament gets started in Luxembourg.

The city ace is keen to qualify in his own right rather than rely on one of Great Britain's guaranteed places at the games, with 11 spots up for grabs in all when the event begins on Tuesday.

Baggaley has recently competed for England at the World Team Championships in Dortmund, in the second division of the tournament.

He was undefeated as England ended the group stages unbeaten thanks to wins over Egypt, Argentina, Cuba, Venezuela and Australia.

But in the first knock-out stage England went down 3-1 to India with Baggaley losing in four to Ghosh Soumyajit.

The city player was then not involved in victories over Italy and Egypt as his country finished the championships in 29th spot overall.

Hopes of playing in the higher championship division at the next tournament in 2014 depends on the overall world rankings of the players involved.

ICE HOCKEY

Lightning to battle with a familiar foe

Lightning put Slough under pressure on Saturday. Pic: Jez Tibbetts

Lightning 3 Slough Jets 4
Slough Jets 2 Lightning 3

LIGHTNING and Slough Jets could not be separated this weekend and now they must do it all again in the play-offs.

Slough triumphed 4-3 at Planet Ice but Lightning got their revenge with a 3-2 win in Slough as the English Premier League season came to a close.

If aggregate scores counted it would have been 6-6, and something will have to give in the play-off encounters.

The top eight sides in the league are facing off against each other with the four winners advancing to the play-off finals day in Coventry.

Saturday's final home league game saw the Jets comprehensively out-shot by a dominant Lightning and, for the vast majority of the game, outplayed, but a late goal by Darius Pliskauskas meant the two points went back to Surrey.

However, it was a different story in Slough 24-hours later with Lightning building a lead and keeping it to make sure of the points.

Player-coach Nick Poole said: "Slough are a very good team, who we more than matched over six periods of hockey at the weekend.

"But despite everything on Saturday, we let our guard down for a couple of split-second lapses, and let them get crucial goals even though we had more chances.

"So we know what we need to do this weekend to beat them over two legs and make sure it's us going to Coventry at their expense – 100 per cent concentration from start to finish, and to be more clinical.

"Over the first two periods on Saturday we outshot them by an aggregate three to one, which shows you what an incredible work rate we put in.

"We'll be looking for a better conversion rate this weekend and we know we can do it because we've scored a lot of goals in the last few weeks.

"We want to qualify for Coventry because we know how much it means to our fans.

"It's a huge weekend and once you're there, anything can happen, but we need to get there first, so that's what we're concentrating on for now – we can't wait to get started this weekend."

The home leg of the tie will be played at Planet Ice on Saturday, with face-off at 7pm.

This will be followed by the crucial away leg in Slough on Sunday, again starting at 7pm.

BASKETBALL

Lions slip out of play-off positions

Newcastle Eagles 101 Lions 92

Pic: Ellie Merridale

LIONS coach Mike New said that his side were in a play-off 'dog fight' after this defeat in the north east.

A battling performance at British Basketball League leaders Newcastle Eagles could not stop the loss on Friday night – and the city side slid out of the play-off positions as a result.

New, *pictured*, saw his side leap-frogged by rivals Cheshire Jets, who now hold the coveted eighth spot – the final play-off berth.

But the coach remains confidence that Lions can regain their place in the end-of-season shake up and he has taken positives from the Newcastle game despite it ending in defeat.

As league leaders, Eagles would be the play-off opposition if Lions did finish in eighth place and New doesn't think that his players should have anything to fear after the champions elect were run close by his side.

He said: "We match up well against Newcastle, a lot of teams lose easily by 15 to 25 points but we kept it to single digits.

"Considering they are the best team in the league we are not in a bad place on the measuring stick.

"We have not been playing to our potential but we have set ourselves some short-term goals and hope to catapult back into the play-offs with momentum.

"Everyone is on the same page and this is an exciting time for basketball.

"We are in a dog fight with just five games left to go."

The Eagles were led once more by 28 points from Charles Smith, with Demarius Bolds and Daniel Northern leading the visitors with 20 apiece.

Northern added a game high 13 rebounds but Lions suffered a blow when Justin Dobbins was taken to hospital after picking up a serious looking injury.

He was stretchered off but the knee knock is not thought to be as bad as originally feared.

Next up for Lions is a home game with high flying Plymouth Raiders on Good Friday, who were beaten in Winterhill in the BBL Trophy semi-final earlier this season.

The following weekend sees the huge game with Cheshire.

Tip-off for the Plymouth clash is 7.30pm.

RUGBY UNION

Huge victory means City are on the brink

A DOMINANT Milton Keynes thrashed Wooton Bassett 55-7 on Saturday to tighten their grip on the play-off spot in the Southern Counties North.

City are second in the division, five points ahead of nearest rivals Windsor, who they will need to hold off to maintain their chances of promotion to the South West 1 East.

The Berkshire club have a game in hand, which they will play away at Malborough on Saturday, which could see them jump back above MK.

But Windsor will then need points from their trip to runaway leaders Beaconsfield on the final day of the season in two weeks time, when City will host Alchester in their last match of the campaign.

Bonus point wins, when five points are awarded instead of four for scoring four or more tries, will be what both sides are aiming for during the crucial run-in.

If Windsor win all of their remaining games with a bonus point, then they will pip MK to the post no matter what the city side achieve.

Whoever grabs the spot will play-off against a side from the Southern Counties South for the right to go up.

City were rampant against Wooton Bassett, the first try arriving shortly after kick-off when Dan Rolfe found the corner.

After only seven minutes skipper Richard Hill had added a second score after strong work from a rampaging MK pack and Scott Aspinall claimed the third try after a clever kick bounced off the post.

Rolfe ran in his second try to secure the bonus point and Ashley Hill added a fifth as the maul crossed the line.

On the stroke of half-time Phil Powell kicked the ball into the corner and the MK pack moved forward after Steve Christie had stolen the ball from the line-out, allowing Hill to break away and score his second try of the day.

In the second half Wooton grabbed a consolation after MK full back Dan Walker was yellow carded for entering the maul from the side but two tries from Powell and another from Aspinall completed the comfortable victory.

Attentions can now turn to the massive game against Alchester with the outcome having a huge factor on how MK's season ends.

Meanwhile, Bletchley, who are already in the South West 1 East, were beaten 24-13 by Reading and are still hovering near the relegation places.

In the same division bottom of the table Olney went down 48-15 to High Wycombe despite a hat-trick of tries from winger Cameron McLean.

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Play-off time for Lightning – page 71

Jabo Ibehre missed this stoppage time chance to equalise on Saturday as Dons lost to Brentford. More Dons coverage on page 70. Picture: Andy Handley.

Six weeks to make history

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

DONS players have been challenged to bounce back from consecutive home defeats by making club history over the next six weeks.

The setbacks against Carlisle and Brentford have left the squad looking over their shoulder at the chasing play-off pack when a fortnight ago the focus had been on going up automatically by breaking into League One's top two.

Some are now fearing that the club could slide out of the play-off positions entirely but boss Karl Robinson believes that there is plenty to be positive about with just six games remaining this season.

The manager feels that his side have been unlucky with both injuries and refereeing decisions in recent games.

And he is relishing the last weeks of the campaign when promotion to the Championship via a Wembley play-off final is very much the goal.

Dons still have a healthy seven point gap to Notts County – the team directly below the play-offs – although eight adrift Stevenage have a game in hand.

Robinson's side know that their two game losing streak cannot be extended if they want to avoid a nervewracking end to the season.

And they will also be hoping to hit form during the crucial last matches so, should they make it, they can enter the play-off campaign full of confidence.

Robinson said: "We're in a strong position at the moment. I love it, this is the best time of the year.

"Bring it on, whoever you are, as we're ready for you.

"We're ready to rumble and we're not going to leave anything in the tank. There's an awful lot of effort and heart and soul left in us.

"These are six weeks to define a life and earn a place in this club's very short history.

"We've got some of our history up on the walls now, and we can add to that if we can get over this line.

"It's a difficult line to cross but we're ready for the challenges."

The manager added that his players did not think that a play-off spot had already been secured.

He said: "We are taking nothing for granted and we will approach these games in the right frame of mind.

"In the games we lost we don't think that we were a million miles away, we should have won them.

"We'll dust ourselves off and go again, we don't get too despondent when we lose or get carried away when we win, we stay very level in our thought process.

"If we're not in the play-offs it will be because we were not good enough."

Robbo's desperate to sign Neil Mellor

KARL Robinson is publically courting striker Neil Mellor – who is on the books of Saturday's opponents Preston.

The Dons boss watched the 29-year-old cause numerous problems for his players when the two sides met earlier in the season and is determined to have him as part of his own squad.

As a result Mellor, who worked with Robinson at Liverpool, will be a top summer target for the club.

He only managed half-an-hour during the previous match at stadiummk before having to hobble off with an injury.

But Robinson had already been suitably impressed by the forward, who is still struggling with his fitness.

"I remember Neil Mellor absolutely terrorising us for 25 minutes," the boss said.

"He was the best player on the pitch and I want him desperately next season.

"I've spoken to him at great length and I think that Charlie MacDonald, Jabo Ibehre and maybe Neil next year would provide tremendous strength in depth.

"Him with Charlie or Jabo would be an awesome partnership.

"That's the sort of thing I want to look at to get us where we want to get to, and the chairman has backed me all the way."

Sheffield Wednesday striker Clinton Morrison, who enjoyed a productive month on loan at Dons earlier this season, could be another target as he is unlikely to have a future at the Owls.

But Robinson said it could be difficult to find the cash needed to bring him in.

He said: "Clinton's a great lad and he knows I think the world of him but people can demand massive wages and it's difficult to attract them.

"With Charlie and Jabo here we only need to add one up top, and maybe a winger and a right back in the summer."

Robinson added that one of his current crop of players is close to signing an extension to his contract to keep him at stadiummk.

But MK SPORT understands that on-loan West Ham striker Rob Hall is due to leave the club as Robinson has decided to terminate the agreement.

The 18-year-old was signed up until the end of the season only last month, and has made just two substitute appearances against Chesterfield and Brentford.

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